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Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 31 May

NC1006174594

[Editorial Report] The following review of the 31 May issue of the Cairo Arabic-language newspaper AL-SHA'B summarizes articles that are Islamic in nature.

CONTENTS:

1. Muslim Brothers, Labor Party Youths Arrested

2. Government Campaign Against Muslim Brotherhood Criticized

3. Muslim Brotherhood Deputy Guide Defends Group

MUSLIM BROTHERS, LABOR PARTY YOUTHS ARRESTED

An unattributed 120-word report on page 1 of AL-SHA'B says that "within the framework of the mounting government campaign against the Muslim Brotherhood, the security forces have arrested eight brothers. They were brought before the prosecution, which ordered that they be detained for 15 days." Among the imprisoned brothers is Ibrahim Sharaf, private secretary of the general guide of the Muslim Brotherhood. They were accused of belonging to an "illegal group."

In another unattributed 500-word report on page 3, the paper writes about the arrest of Labor Party youths in various governorates for distributing leaflets on the occasion of 'Id al-Adha.

GOVERNMENT CAMPAIGN AGAINST MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD CRITICIZED

A 400-word article by Ahmad al-Suyufi on page 4 explains the role of the security forces vis-a-vis the people. The writer begins by explaining the difficult task of the security forces. He says: "The security men in Egypt should be pitied. Our impotent government has entrusted them with solving all the problems of Egypt. The policemen are asked to resolve political, economic, and social problems." They decide who is an extremist, moderate, terrorist, or a good citizen. They also decide which political parties cooperate with the government and which oppose it, which is publications are enlightened and which reckless, and which professional unions are good and which bad. Problems are tackled by the security forces, not by the politicians.

The writer then refers to the government campaign against the Muslim Brotherhood "just because they dare to voice their views on our national issues." He asks: "What is their crime? Frankly speaking, the issue is not detached from what is happening everywhere in the world. What is happening to the Brothers is not detached from what is happening in Bosnia, Somalia, Iraq, Yemen, Libya, Kashmir, Algeria, Tunisia, and Burma. It is the same method and the hidden hands are the same. No one will believe the nonsense that the Brothers stand behind and encourage terrorism."

MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD DEPUTY GUIDE DEFENDS GROUP

AL-SHA'B publishes on page 5 a 2,300-word article by Mustafa Mashhur, deputy guide of the Muslim Brotherhood, in which he defends the group against accusations of involvement in terrorism. He begins by stressing that "not a single member of the Muslim Brotherhood" has participated in any disturbances or terrorist incidents during the past quarter century. Nevertheless, he continues, "some tendentious writers have continued to accuse the Brothers of involvement in terrorism and violence, and to describe the groups that are known to embrace violence as offspring of the Muslim Brotherhood." He says that the Brothers at times have tried to respond to these writers and refute their false accusations. The Muslim Brotherhood has always emphasized its religious orientation and exercised its legal activity through the official institutions, such as the People's Assembly, the professional associations, faculty clubs at educational institutions, and the local councils. "The public," he says "became confident of our moderate methods, which are far removed from violence and terrorism." But as soon as the president said in an interview with the German publication DER SPIEGEL that the Muslim Brotherhood encourages extremists, the national press and their chief editors and writers began attacking it and instigating the regime against it. Sensational headlines began appearing in the press, linking the Muslim Brotherhood with what happened at the Lawyers Association.

Mashhur then gives a brief history of the Muslim Brotherhood since 1948, when Hasan al-Banna was murdered for sending fedayeen to confront the Zionist gangs in Palestine, and notes that various state leaders have come and gone, but the Muslim Brotherhood remains. He says that the Muslim Brotherhood resumed their moderate, legitimate activity under President Mubarak. The regime and some tendentious quarters were displeased when the Islamists won in the Lawyers Association elections.

Referring to the recent incidents at the Lawyers Association, Mashhur says: "I would like to emphasize that the Muslim Brotherhood does not interfere in the internal affairs of the associations." But, he continues, they are reassured that the members abide by the correct Islamic behavior code. He also denies accusations that the Muslim Brotherhood have exploited the incident and turned public opinion against the regime.

Continuing his defense of the Muslim Brotherhood, Mashhur says that al-Sadat once said that there is no politics in religion and no religion in politics; we objected to this saying. Al-Sadat later amended it and said that Islam is a religion and a state. Mashhur expounds on this idea by saying that Islam has from the beginning been a complete and comprehensive religion, regulating the lives of people in the political, economic,

social, military, and other fields. Islam is not just a religion. People must abide by its teachings in all aspects of life. There is need for a state and government to implement God's shari'ah.

Mashhur goes on to say that "it is unconstitutional to prevent the Islamists from establishing a political party." He says there is no proof that the establishment of an Islamic political party in Egypt will be followed by the establishment of a Christian party. The Muslim Brotherhood's relations with the brother Copts has always been good. He stresses that "Islam is the religion of justice, peace, freedom, and equality. It is against dictatorship and oppression." What happened in Algeria is that a regime, supported by the army, has destroyed the democratic system and canceled the free elections which brought the Islamists to power. It was not the Islamists who destroyed democracy, he says.

Mashhur denies that the Muslim Brotherhood has a secret apparatus or a military wing. He admits that they did have such bodies in the 1940's when the Zionist gangs were fighting the Palestinians and when the British colonialists occupied Egypt. He says now conditions have changed, and "there is no more need for a secret apparatus or a military wing. We support God and His religion, which is the official religion of the state. Regrettably, we find that the ruling regime is trying to curb the activity of those who support God and His religion."

He continues: Some say that the Muslim Brotherhood's aim is to seize power, after which it supposedly will prevent a multiparty system. "We have denied this claim over and over. We demand that government rule be according to the shari'ah, but we do not demand to rule ourselves." We said if others ruled according to the shari'ah, we would support them. Would anyone seeking power for temporal gains and facing the tribulations we have faced for half a century have persevered? We demand rule according to the shari'ah; this is a religious duty of every Muslim man and woman, rulers and subjects. "We are fully convinced that Islam is the solution to all our problems, because it comes from God, who created us and who knows what is good and what is bad for us."

Mashhur concludes: "There is an international campaign by the enemies of Islam led by the Zionists, the Western crusaders, the Hindus, and others headed by the Zionist enemy and America. They are fighting Islam and the Muslims, as we see everywhere." These enemies think that with their material power they can destroy Islam, but they delude themselves. God will safeguard his religion, he says.

Palestinian Affairs

Self-Rule General Election Day Set for 15 Aug

JN1106110994 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 11 Jun 94 p 30

[Text] Jericho—It has been learned from informed Palestinian sources in the Palestinian National Authority that the general election for the Palestinian self-rule institutions will be held on 15 August.

'Arafat Meets With Butrus-Ghali, Mubarak in Tunis

UN Actions Reviewed

LD1106235394 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 11 Jun 94

[Text] The Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat received last night in Tunis the UN Secretary General Dr Butrus-Ghali. WAFA stated that during the meeting they had a comprehensive review of the activities of the United Nations and its institutions inside the Palestinian territories.

WAFA added that during the audience, they stressed the cooperation with the UN regarding construction and building projects in the Palestinian territories and helping the Palestinian refugees.

Cairo Agreement Discussed

NC1306071694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2145 GMT 12 Jun 94

[Text] Tunis, 12 Jun (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat at his place of residence in Tunis this evening. Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa also attended the meeting. After the meeting, 'Arafat said that his meeting with President Mubarak is within the framework of his constant meetings with him. He expressed pride in the firm ties between Palestine and Egypt. He said that he emphasized to President Mubarak that the Palestinian people will not forget the noble and firm stance of the Egyptian leadership and people, noting the efforts President Mubarak made until the Palestinian-Israeli agreement was signed in Cairo on 4 May. He said that the Palestinian people fully appreciate this effort.

'Arafat pointed out that he explained to President Mubarak certain issues relating to implementing the Israeli-Palestinian agreement and the need to implement it honestly and quickly. He noted that he focused on the poor state of the infrastructure in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip as a result of complete destruction—particularly the schools, hospitals, and universities. He noted that the people are suffering from problems with the drinking water in Gaza and that kidney failure cases are rife in the Gaza Strip as a result of using this water. He said: We have to start from square one and expressed confidence that brothers and friends will assist the Palestinians.

'Arafat stressed the need to implement the Cairo agreement meticulously and honestly, noting that Israel places obstacles in the way. He said: We have to begin receiving powers in the West Bank but this procedure is still crippled. He said that the Palestinian detainees problem is a basic issue, noting that a number of detainees, particularly those with long sentences, have not yet been

released. He said that the Israelis must fulfill their obligations. Concluding his statement, he reiterated his greetings and appreciation to the Egyptian leadership, government, and people for standing by the Palestinian people at the start of their liberation and until the Palestinian flag is raised over all the West bank and the Gaza Strip.

'Early Warning' Device Fitted in 'Arafat's Chest

PM1306121694 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 11 Jun 94 pp 1, 4

[Excerpt] Amman, London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—While Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat continues his normal political activities, questions continue to be asked about his state of health, especially after the reports that he suffered symptoms similar to myocardial infarction [al-dhabhah al-qalbiyah] symptoms.

Sources close to the Palestinian president say that 'Arafat was recently fitted with a medical device that puts him under 24 observation. The sources say that the device's task is to warn early of any sudden health condition 30 minutes before it occurs. All 'Arafat has to do then is quickly call his private physician to supervise his condition.

The sources say that the device, which has been fitted in the Palestinian president's rib cage, is sensitive, effective, and reliable.

Dr. Ashraf al-Kurdi, who has supervised 'Arafat's health since the surgical operation he underwent in al-Husayn Medical Center in Amman, stressed that Abu-'Ammar's ['Arafat's] health is excellent and that he has suffered no heart troubles at all. In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Dr. al-Kurdi said that Abu-'Ammar's admission to the military hospital in Tunis nearly two weeks ago was due to a high temperature, a common cold, and a minor headache.

Dr. al-Kurdi, a prominent neurosurgeon in Jordan and the Middle East, denied that Abu-'Ammar suffered any symptoms as a result of the head surgery he carried out two years ago. He said that that has finished and that that condition was a page which has been turned forever. According to Dr. Ashraf al-Kurdi, Abu-'Ammar's [blood] pressure is more than good for a man in his situation and of his age. He pointed out that the enormous pressures the Palestinian president is under and the instability he is experiencing always expose him to exhaustion—which causes him to stay in bed even when suffering a common cold. [passage omitted]

Some Offices in Tunis, Other Cities To Remain Open

JN1006143394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1055 GMT 10 Jun 94

[Telephone interview with Palestinian Authority member Dr. Samir Ghawshah in Tunis by Sa'id Mu'addi in Jerusalem; date not given; from the "With the Midday Events" program—recorded]

[Text] [Mu'addi] The PLO headquarters in Tunis is preparing to close following instructions given by Yasir 'Arafat nearly one week ago to close of the offices before 15 June in preparation for the move to the self-rule area. Several committees have been set up in various offices to follow up this issue. On this subject, Palestinian Authority member Dr. Samir Ghawshah says:

[Ghawshah] We are preparing all necessary steps now for leaving for the Gaza Strip and Jericho area. A number of the revolution's cadres are preparing themselves. A large number of security men and policemen who were in Tunisia have left for Gaza and Jericho. We hope that these preparations can be completed as soon as possible and before the end of this month at most.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Samir, have all buildings used by the PLO leadership in Tunis been handed back to their owners?

[Ghawshah] What happened was that certain buildings and certain administrative offices that were used by the security and police forces were decided to be handed over to their owners before 15 June.

[Mu'addi] Will all offices of the Palestinian leadership be moved to the self-rule area, or will some offices remain in Tunis?

[Ghawshah] Most of these offices will be moved, but some offices will remain, especially the Political Department, which, according to the agreement, will play its role in following up political contacts and foreign relations.

[Mu'addi] There are reports saying that 'Arafat's office and his residence will remain at his disposal at present. Does this mean that his permanent place of residence will remain in Tunis?

[Ghawshah] I do not think so. On the contrary, his place of residence will be in the Palestinian territories, and mainly between Gaza and Jericho, but this does not counter the fact that brother Yasir 'Arafat has a number of headquarters in a number of Arab countries, one of which will be in Tunis.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Samir, what about the arrival of Palestinian Authority members in the self-rule area? There are conflicting reports about this subject.

[Ghawshah] As I said, we hope that this will take place soon, and that preparations be made as soon as possible so that the Palestinian Authority will carry out its role in all fields, in a manner that serves the causes of our people.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Samir, what about appointing the rest of the Palestinian Authority members?

[Ghawshah] Contacts and consultations are still going on. We hope that the rest of Palestinian Authority members will be appointed when the authority arrives in the homeland.

'Abbas Denies Tunis Offices To Close

PM1306141294 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 11 Jun 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by 'Ali al-Salih: "Abu-Mazin To Remain in Tunis With Abu-al-Lutf and Abu-Mahir"]

[Excerpt] London—PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas (Abu-Mazin) has denied that a decision has been taken to close PLO offices in Tunis. He said: "That is untrue."

Reports said the day before yesterday that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat had issued a decision to close all PLO offices in Tunis before 15 June on the occasion of what was termed the "return to the homeland."

Abu-Mazin told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT over the telephone: It is not known yet which establishments will remain [in Tunis]. However, he expected the Political Department, headed by Faruq Qaddumi (Abu-al-Lutf), to keep its offices in Tunis.

Asked about the fate of his department (International Relations), Abu-Mazin, architect of the Oslo accord, said that "it could be abolished or incorporated into the Political Department or maybe moved to the inside [the self-rule areas]." He went on: "But I will not move to the self-rule areas at the moment. I will remain in Tunis."

As for Fatah Central Committee member Muhammad Ghunaym (Abu-Mahir), he said in this context: All offices, except those related to the Political Department, the Returnees Department headed by 'Abdallah Hurani (who resigned from the Executive Committee), and the general staff, have been or will be closed. I mention in particular the offices related to the security and military services, most of whose cadres and staff have left for the self-rule areas.

Abu-Mahir said that the departments concerned with external action and the military forces will remain in Tunis. "Other departments will move to the inside [the self-rule areas]." On his own position, Abu-Mahir said: "We might move from Tunis after a period of time, but not to the inside." But he declined to name the area to which he is going to move. [passage omitted]

Sha'th on Donor States Meetings, Need for Aid

JN1006141794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1045 GMT 10 Jun 94

[Interview with Nabil Sha'th, PLO adviser and head of the Palestinian delegation to the international coordination committee of donor states, in Paris by Sa'id Mu'addi in Jerusalem; date not given; from the "With the Midday Events" program—recorded]

[Text] [Sha'th] Meetings were held yesterday with all members of the coordination committee of the donor states, including the World Bank delegation. I believe they were important meetings on the road to translating the obligations and promises made by these donor states into quick and direct financial aid, which can contribute to pushing things forward to establish the new central administrations, to respond to the needs of thousands of Palestinians and their families who have suffered for a long time under the occupation, and to respond to the needs of economic development to create jobs for the Palestinians, particularly in the Gaza Strip, who are suffering from severe unemployment. The donor states are called upon to extend all this aid in a form of specific material aid during today's meeting, God willing.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Nabil, of course you have reviewed the difficult economic situation for the participants in these meetings, as well as the need to immediately delivering funds in order to implement the self-rule in Gaza and Jericho. What approach are the participants states taking?

[Sha'th] Undoubtedly, there is an awareness of the pressing need for this international aid, which should be in the form of quick cash, and not merely commitments and promises. There is also a realization that the peace process is completely reliant on the Palestinian National Authority's [PNA] success in turning this [self-rule] agreement into a tangible thing for the Palestinian people. It must let them realize the benefits of peace and the other meanings of freedom, dignity, independence, and the building of the homeland and economic development. I believe that there is a realization of all this. However, we are waiting today to see if this realization has been transformed into quick aid.

[Mu'addi] Are there any reservations by the donor states which could obstruct the transferring of funds to the Palestinians?

[Sha'th] I cannot see true reservations in this sense, particularly after the Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction has been established, after the new budget has been prepared, and after the PNA has assumed powers in Gaza and Jericho. However, these states should move from the state of realization, feeling, and interest into a state of paying funds. These states have rules, laws, and constitutional institutions, and therefore, we should encourage them to move quickly to the stage of implementation.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Nabil, what is today's agenda, and when do you expect the decision will be made?

[Sha'th] Today, there will be a meeting to be attended by all states. These states' members will make statements, beginning with the Palestinian delegation. The meeting will end at 1700 with a news conference. So, we should expect practical results before 1700.

[Mu'addi] A final question, what are the sums of money we are talking of, Dr. Nabil Sha'th?

[Sha'th] We are talking about translating promises of more than $2 billion into specific sums to be paid during this period, or next month and the months which follow, in order to rectify the deficit in the budget, and to allow funds to pour into economic projects. So, we are talking about $100 million, at least, at the beginning.

Sees 'Qualitative Change' in Donor States

JN1106080694 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0519 GMT 11 Jun 94

[Interview with Nabil Sha'th, PLO adviser and head of the Palestinian delegation to the international coordination committee of donor states, by Sufiya 'Amarah in Paris on 10 June—recorded]

[Text] ['Amarah] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, how responsive were the donor countries to the Palestinian financial demands?

[Sha'th] Today's meeting saw a qualitative change in this responsiveness. There has always been Palestinian apprehension that assistance might be so late in coming that it would be impossible to establish Palestinian institutions on liberated Palestinian territory in time to enable them to stand on their own and begin an independent Palestinian economy. Today, I say that there has been a transformation. It is true the sums we are talking about are not great. There is a commitment to offer $720 million. Today we obtained a commitment to transfer $40 million of that in the form of currency during the next week.

However, this $40 million is only 40 out of 70, which is the deficit in the current expenditure budget of the coming Palestinian government within the national authority. This is more than half of the amount needed to pay the government's expenditure for the next few months. This is enough to cover the deficit for three months. It will be followed by a meeting on 11 July to fulfill the commitment to cover this deficit.

Therefore, today's development was not only progress in terms of the promised sums but in terms of the monies transferred to finance the difficult part, namely, the current expenditure of the Palestinian government.

['Amarah] Then you believe this assistance is enough to meet the requirements of development and to rebuild the infrastructure in the Palestinian autonomy areas, especially the Gaza Strip?

[Sha'th] These amounts are not budgeted for all the expenditures concerning investments or long-term projects. They will cover current expenditures, that is, the police, the employees of the Palestinian authority, and certain very urgent projects, such as programs to rehabilitate Palestinian detainees just released, and to give some compensation to thousands of Palestinians who have borne the brunt of the occupation, namely, the handicapped, the injured, families of martyrs and detainees and others. These will be projects to [word indistinct] assistance for them economically. There are projects like the Gaza cleaning project, which will cost $15 million, employing 15,000 laborers for three months. Thus, all the manifestations of former occupation will be removed, such as barbed wire, cement blocks that barricade roads, and the garbage the Israelis left on the streets. Therefore, it is an urgent payment to implement urgent projects and to cover the expenditures of the Palestinian government.

We are well aware that this assistance is just the beginning. The Palestinian people will play their role, which they have proved for themselves and the world throughout long years of struggle for their homeland. The Palestinians who have been steadfast in the occupied territories for many years are asked to transform their energies and resources into building their independent and free country. Palestinians abroad, who have suffered and sacrificed in order to return to their country, and who contributed to building the countries of their brothers outside Palestine, are now prepared to return to rebuild their homeland. I believe self-reliance is the main Palestinian motto. This self-reliance now needs support to transform it into reality as soon as possible.

I would also like to say that the much talked about delay in our Arab brothers' assistance to us, which I considered painful, is now beginning to become clearer. We say Arab backing has always been presented to the Palestinian people. Palestinians have always been grateful to their Arab brothers. Some Arabs contributed their money, some their own souls, and some their land from which the Palestinian people set out—in Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt, Syria, Tunisian, the Gulf countries. All these Arab states gave their contributions. There were reasons for delays in this contribution.

Now, I am happy to say that one-quarter of the amount given today was contributed by fraternal Saudi Arabia. Two other Arab states have promised the World Bank to announce a definite amount of assistance. This was not announced today, but it will be announced within two days. This will restore to the Palestinians the feeling that their Arab brothers are by their side in the process of liberation and reconstruction.

['Amarah] Last question, Dr. Sha'th. No definite date has been fixed for Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat's arrival in Jericho. What is the cause of this hesitation?

[Sha'th] President Yasir 'Arafat will be returning to his homeland for which he fought for many years. He did not link his return to his homeland with the realization of all his demands of support for this homeland. 'Arafat has expressed the Palestinian concern that the international community, which pushed toward the peace process and which saluted it in Washington on 13 September 1993, is hesitating to carry out its responsibility to transform this peace into facts on the ground. 'Arafat felt this concern. He was expressing to the international community his people's concern. But I now believe he is

ready, as always, to return to this homeland to lead his people on their liberated land.

Comments on Release of Detainees

JN1106160194 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 11 Jun 94

[Interview with Nabil Sha'th, PLO adviser and head of the Palestinian delegation to the international coordination committee of donor states, by Salah Salamah in Paris on 11 June—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Salamah] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, we welcome you. As you know, there are many concerns in the Palestinian arena. The implementation of the agreement that was signed by Israel and the PLO faces many obstacles. There is the problem of the Palestinian detainees, who Israel has set free in accordance with unfair conditions, including the condition of keeping these freed detainees in the Jericho area to prevent them from returning to their homes. What can you tell us about these obstacles and their dimensions?

[Sha'th] Negotiations for the release of the Palestinian detainees continued until the last moment, just before the conclusion of the agreement in Cairo on 4 May. The Palestinian side insisted—I reiterate that we concluded an agreement that gives all the Palestinian detainees now in Israeli prisons the opportunity to be set free. This is what we want implemented: First, the immediate release of the 5,000 detainees who, according to our agreement, should be released from Israeli jails within a period of five weeks from the date the agreement was signed. This means this is the last week for the release of these 5,000 detainees. We agreed to continue negotiations for the release of the others within the next three months.

There is a clear agreement on what should be done with this group that has been sent to Jericho. Only those who were imprisoned for civilian crimes such as those who killed persons for nonpolitical reasons, drug smugglers, and thieves should be handed over to the PNA, which in turn will either keep them in prison or release them. Whatever the category under which they fall, they remain within the jurisdiction of the PNA in Gaza and Jericho until this authority starts exercising Palestinian authority throughout the West Bank. This will take three months at the most.

As for the other political detainees, they should immediately be released in the West bank and Gaza and they should return home. If the Israeli authorities prevent them from enjoying their right to return to their homes, this will constitute a violation of the agreement. We communicated this to the Israeli delegation which was present at the donor countries conference here in Paris. General Rotschild promised to solve this problem within 48 hours. [passage omitted]

[Salamah] Dr. Sha'th, as part of the Israeli attempt to judaize Jerusalem, the Israeli government says it is determined to move the Palestinian national institutions from Jerusalem to the autonomy areas. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin recently said that this has been agreed upon with the PLO and it is mentioned in the Oslo agreement. What is the truth about this point?

[Sha'th] The Declaration of Principles [DOP] and the Gaza- Jericho agreement clearly mention that only the institutions whose activity is restricted to Jericho and Gaza should be in Gaza and Jericho. But, all the Palestinian institutions which serve the Palestinian people in the West Bank and Jerusalem remain where they are. The Arab institutions in Jerusalem were there before the Gaza-Jericho agreement, and they will continue their activities after the PNA extends its jurisdiction beyond Gaza and Jericho.

The agreement that was signed in Washington says that within a period of nine months from the date of the conclusion of that agreement—that is on 13 July—the PNA must extend its authority over all the West Bank. Any postponement of the discussion of the final status of Jerusalem does not affect the Palestinian institutions in Jerusalem. I believe that the paper that was signed by Foreign Minister Peres and sent to late Norwegian Foreign Minister Holst is very explicit. The Palestinian institutions in Jerusalem will remain there. These institutions began their activities during the Likud and Shamir's rule. They precede the Labor Party's government and the agreement we signed. These institutions should remain to serve the Palestinian people in Jerusalem and the other areas of the Palestinian territories. They have nothing to do with the Gaza-Jericho agreement.

When we discuss the final status of Jerusalem, the explicit Palestinian stand will emphasize that Jerusalem is a city that was occupied in 1967 and should be liberated when a definitive solution is reached so that it may be the Palestinian capital of the independent Palestinian state. This is very clear and represents the sound implementation of UN Security Council resolution 242 and the DOP. [passage omitted]

Says 'Arafat to Jericho Soon

JN1206171094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1430 GMT 12 Jun 94

[Interview with Nabil Sha'th, PLO adviser and head of the Palestinian delegation to the international coordination committee of donor states, by Sa'id Mu'addi on 12 June; place not given; from the "With the Events" program—recorded]

[Text] [Mu'addi] Now that funds from the donor nations have been delivered, is the road open for 'Arafat to come to the self-rule area?

[Sha'th] Without a doubt. President 'Arafat is returning to his homeland, in any case. But armed with support, he stands a better chance of doing something for his people and, at the same time, building the Palestinian authority.

[Mu'addi] There are conflicting reports about the date for Mr. Yasir 'Arafat's arrival in the self-rule area. Do you know when he will arrive?

[Sha'th] I am afraid I do not know for sure. President 'Arafat has his own schedule and plans. He is now preparing for the African summit in Tunis. He has to tie up some loose ends before he leaves Tunis. He cannot leave anyone behind without a plan of action. He cannot leave and close PLO offices in Tunis just like that. He does not want to leave the impression that he is letting anyone down. There are a few things that he must attend to before he moves out from Tunis. I was in touch with him yesterday, and today in the morning, and just a few minutes ago. I can tell you that he is coming before the end of the month, God willing.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Nabil, you have attended the recent conference of the donor nations in Paris, where a decision was made to extend at $42 million grant to the Palestinians. How will the money be spent?

[Sha'th] This is part of the $77 million that represent the deficit in the current budget. The money will also cover vital projects to help those Palestinians who have been hurt the most. The money will not cover the long-term projects toward which the donor nations pledged $720 million for this year. Work on some of these projects is already in progress with the participation of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency, the Palestinian Housing Authority, and the UN Development Fund. These are separate projects. The Paris meeting considered only how to plug the deficit in the current expenses, in other words the finances required for running the Palestinian government and the upkeep of the Palestinian police force. The money will also go toward reducing unemployment in Gaza and rehabilitating freed detainees and the disabled and wounded and those who have suffered the most as a result of the protracted struggle.

[Mu'addi] There have recently been some complications regarding the Palestinian detainees and collaborators. How did the agreement between Israel and the PLO address these two points?

[Sha'th] As far as the detainees are concerned, the agreement is very clear. By the fifth week of the signing of the agreement, 5,000 detainees are supposed to have been freed. Israel is supposed to have freed 5,000 detainees as of today. Other than that to which the PLO committed itself, they will not be obligated to anything. In my opinion, this is a fair condition. The Palestinian government and opposition should not differ about the general conditions under which the detainees are released; namely a commitment to the peace process and the terms agreed upon between the PLO and Israel.

Regarding the presence of these freed prisoners in Jericho or elsewhere, the agreement calls for those who were imprisoned for common rather than political crimes—there are those who were guilty of theft, smuggling, and murder that have nothing to do with resistance and the struggle in which we were involved—to be handed over to the Palestinian authority either to be incarcerated or put on parole. Since the Palestinian authority will be active only in Gaza and Jericho in the coming three months, these should remain in the self-rule area until the Palestinian authority extends to the entire West Bank. As for the political prisoners who were convicted on political counts and for their engagement in acts of resistance, they must be freed to return to their homes in Gaza, Jericho, the West Bank, and Jerusalem. These are the conditions laid out in the agreement which we have to implement, and we must see to it that these detainees lead free lives in their homes with their families so that the peace begins in earnest and so we may leave the past conflict behind us. With the release of the 5,000 detainees, negotiations should have begun without delay to draw up a timetable for freeing the rest of the detainees and prisoners along the same lines and principles which we agreed should govern the freeing of the first 5,000.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Nabil, when do you expect to arrive with your family in the self-rule area?

[Sha'th] Tuesday, the day after tomorrow, God willing.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, thank you so much.

[Sha'th] Thank you.

PECDAR Official on Donor States Conference

JN1206141294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 0955 GMT 12 Jun 94

[Interview with Dr. Hasan Abu-Libdah, deputy director general of PECDAR, by 'Umar Zaydani; place and date not given; from the "With the Midday Events" program—recorded]

[Text] [Zaydani] Dr. Hasan Abu-Libdah, deputy director general of the Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction [PECDAR]: You returned last night from Paris carrying in your pocket $42 million from the donor states.

[Abu-Libdah] In fact, we did not come back with $42 million in our pocket. We returned with commitments to pay an additional $42 million to what was pledged on 27 January 1994.

[Zaydani] When will the donor states begin to transfer the funds?

[Abu-Libdah] Some of them have already started to do this. There is a sum of money in the Johan Jorgen Holst Peace Fund. We expect additional funds to be transferred this month.

[Zaydani] During this month, how much will there be in the Holst Fund?

[Abu-Libdah] We expect the funds to total $62 million.

[Zaydani] Is this the sum you have asked for?

[Abu-Libdah] It is part of what we have asked for. We went to the Paris conference three days ago having in mind the need to cover the $81 million deficit in the budget of the Palestinian National Authority [PNA]. We had expected some donor states to step forward to cover this deficit. We got $42 million, however.

[Abu-Libdah] Which states have so far contributed funds to the PNA?

[Abu-Libdah] The big states. The United States has pledged an additional $10 million; Japan an additional $9 million; Saudi Arabia an additional $10 million; Norway an additional $2 million; Canada an additional 1 million Canadian dollars; in addition to other states that will announce this. Let me explain here that these sums are not new pledges; they are a redistribution of the previous pledges. In 1994, many nations pledged to pay more than $700 million. Of course, not all the money will be disbursed in 1994. Based on discussions with these nations, it was agreed that some of them will redistribute their commitments so that we can cover the deficit.

[Zaydani] What are the priorities to which these funds will go in the self-rule region?

[Abu-Libdah] The first priority, of course, is paying the salaries in the public sector, in addition to a variety of programs which we deem of priority. These programs will try to respond to the requirements of the poorer sections of Palestinian society.

[Zaydani] Will the funds then be transferred from the Holst Fund to a particular Palestinian side, the PLO or another fund?

[Abu-Libdah] The Johan Holst Fund is run by the World Bank, but it is at the disposal of the Palestinian leadership, which will decide where to disburse any sums from this fund.

[Zaydani] Another question, if I may. These funds will be enough for only several months.

[Abu-Libdah] Certainly. We went to the Paris conference, and we will go to the next conference on 11 July to demand that the deficit in the PNA budget be covered until the end of this year. We think that if we manage to lay down the appropriate mechanisms to collect Palestinian income in other ways, then we will begin 1995, hopefully, with little or no deficit at all.

[Zaydani] How will the Palestinians contribute money to the PNA through the collection of taxes from Palestinians abroad?

[Abu-Libdah] The Palestinians abroad are expected, in general, to contribute a great deal to development and reconstruction. Palestinian revenues inside the occupied territories will definitely not be enough to lay the foundations of true economic progress that will enable the private sector to operate smoothly. Therefore, we expect our Palestinian brothers outside the occupied territories to be the way we know them, to invest their funds in the self-rule region and pledge funds to allow for progress in economic reconstruction in general.

[Zaydani] PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has made his travel to Jericho conditional on receiving aid from the donor countries. Has Yasir 'Arafat dropped this demand?

[Abu-Libdah] Brother Yasir 'Arafat knows best under what conditions he will be able to enter his country. However, I believe that brother Yasir 'Arafat will arrive shortly in Jericho.

[Zaydani] Why this secrecy about his arrival in Jericho?

[Abu-Libdah] There are several factors that will determine the date of his arrival in Jericho, some of which have to do with the arrangements for the transfer of the PLO offices and its commitments inside the occupied territories, and some of them have a direct relation to the political situation in general.

[Zaydani] Dr. Hasan Abu-Libdah, thank you very much.

[Abu-Libdah] You are welcome.

Security Forces Continue Implementation of Authority

Commander Leaves for Self-Rule Areas

NC1106145594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1420 GMT 11 Jun 94

[Text] Rafah, 11 Jun (MENA)—Major General 'Abd-al-Raziq al-Majayidah, commander of the Palestinian National Security Forces, left Rafah today for the self-rule areas at the instructions of Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat to acquaint himself with the security situation, the deployment of the security forces in vital areas and at important installations, and to prepare for the arrival in Jericho of 'Arafat and the rest of the civilian Authority members.

Maj. Gen. al-Majayidah stressed the need for the donor nations to provide funds to help the security forces perform their duties and establish security and stability in the self-rule areas and help the civilian departments to provide utilities and infrastructure projects.

Economic experts estimate that the civilian authorities will need approximately $25 million per month to cover the current costs, in addition to the costs of building installations in the initial stage of establishing a Palestinian state.

Meanwhile, 600 more personnel of the Palestinian National Security Forces will arrive in Rafah this evening in preparation for entry into the Gaza Strip tomorrow.

Talks With Hamas, Islamic Jihad On-Going

JN1106154094 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 11 Jun 94 p 27

["Exclusive" report by Samir Sa'd-al-Din from "occupied Jerusalem"]

[Text] Mazin 'Izz-al-Din, official in charge of political guidance for the Palestinian police in the Gaza Strip, has said that the Palestinian military has taken over police duties because it was capable and was ready to take over that authority from the political apparatus and that the military would continue to exercise that right until the political and civilian institutions were prepared to assume that responsibility. Therefore, the fear of some brothers in the opposition that the military will continue to assume authority and that the role of the members of the authority would be confined to administrative duties is unfounded.

He also said: We are planning to build political and civilian institutions and to hold elections for the authority's legislative council.

He added: Dialogue between the Fatah Movement and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] has been going on for a long time, and it began even before the arrival of the police in the National Authority's area. We are willing to continue that dialogue until we reach common ground because we believe that the Palestinian police do not belong to one faction but to all the Palestinian people's segments and factions. It is true that we fought Israel, but this is not allowed among our political forces. Now, we are holding a dialogue with Israel, but it is more appropriate that we should argue with each other in a democratic way.

He asserted that we have achieved positive results in our dialogue with Hamas and the Islamic Jihad.

Referring to the existence of a dialogue with the other organizations, he said: We argued with them in Beirut, the jungle of rifles; we all reached common ground; we all participated in formulating our legislative councils and our political frameworks; and we conducted joint patrols. He then urged the leftist and pan- Arab forces to exercise their right under the warm wings of the Palestinian people and democracy to which we all belong.

Regarding the alertness of the Palestinian police, 'Izz-al-Din said that the police forces, which were originally Palestinian forces, were properly trained in various countries, including West European and East European countries and some Arab countries. Several months ago, we sent personnel to the United States, Europe, and France, and we will send others to Japan and some Arab countries to take courses on administration, typography, map drawing, and computer usage. The problem is that we do not have the necessary institutions and departments for police missions. For example, the policemen do not have telecommunications devices to organize work between patrols, branches, and centers.

Mazin 'Izz-al-Din also said that the Palestinian police have actually begun to exercise police missions. For example, they asked drivers to keep proper papers for themselves and their cars, they have organized visits to beaches in Gaza, and they have removed tents and huts on the beaches.

The policemen also cleaned the Strip's cities and camps. Senior officers and soldiers took part in that work. He said: We want opposition factions and organizations to participate with us in removing the slogans they have written on walls in Gaza. Everyone took part in removing similar slogans in Jericho.

Colonel Khalid Mismar, official in charge of information in Jordan, who was appointed official in charge of political guidance for the Palestinian police in the West Bank, is expected to arrive within the next few days.

First Trial Begins at Jericho Court

JN1106122694 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 11 Jun 94 p 27

["Exclusive" report from Muhammad 'Amirah in Jericho]

[Excerpts] By order of the Palestinian National Authority and with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat's approval, the first Palestinian military court in the autonomous areas has been formed. The court is presided over by lawyer Major Muhammad al-Bahri, with lawyers Major Fawzi 'Awdah and lawyer Lieutenant Muhammad Abu-Samih as members. Lawyer Lieutenant Colonel Mahmud Khalil al-Bashtawi has been appointed public prosecutor and representative of the military prosecution.

The court opened its first sitting at the military command hall in Jericho the day before yesterday with the first military case involving Captain Yusuf 'Aytah. On 13 May, a child, 'Ammar Rushdi al-Shawwa, age 13, fidgeted with 'Aytah's rifle amid popular celebrations to mark the Palestinian security forces entry into Jericho, causing the weapon to go off, killing the child instantly and injuring his mother and a third person. [passage omitted]

Lt. Col. al-Bashtawi told AL-DUSTUR that the Palestinian military court will rely on Jordanian and Egyptian laws in the absence of Palestinian military laws, until Palestinian legislation is issued. [passage omitted]

DFLP, PFLP Warn of 'Dangers' of Jordan-Israel Accord

JN1006132394 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 10 Jun 94

[Text] Jordan and Israel Tuesday [7 June] signed three documents detailing the agenda of negotiations that will lead to the signing of a peace treaty. Official sources in Amman said the two countries next month will start

working out a peace agreement after having formed a committee to demarcate their joint borders.

In a statement to our radio, a spokesman for the unified leadership of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] said the unified leadership of the two fronts has warned against the dangers of the Jordanian-Israeli agreement and said it opens the door wide for all forms of normalization at a time when Israel is still occupying the Palestinian and Arab territories, in addition to the fact that it is a violation of the principle of a comprehensive solution in accordance with international legitimacy, although it is hiding behind the first penetration represented by the Oslo-Cairo agreement.

The central leadership of the two fronts warned against this agreement and called on the Jordanian House of Representatives and all national Jordanian forces, parties, and personalities to reject the agreement and not to allow it to pass on both the popular and official levels. The leadership also demanded that the Jordanian Government revoke this agreement and abide by the principle of comprehensive solution and the constants of the pan-Arab position, according to the PFLP and DFLP spokesman.

Algeria

Foreign Minister on Insecurity, Regional Issues

LD1106195994 Paris Radio France International in French 1830 GMT 11 Jun 94

[Interview with Foreign Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri by correspondents Assane Diop and Dominique de Courcelles at the OAU summit in Tunis; date not given; from the "Afrique Soir" program—recorded]

[Text] Our guest on "Afrique Soir" this evening is Algerian Foreign Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri. Interviewed by Assane Diop and Dominique de Courcelles, he began by speaking of relations and cooperation between Sub-Saharan Africa and the Arab world:

[Dembri] We currently face the problems that are thrown up by the transition to a market economy and the bringing together of our potentialities in order to build up economic complementarity; this will ensure that, in the future, Africa and even the Arab world will be able to talk on an equal footing with the developed world. This is not just our own conclusion: The European Union, which is for us the closest pole of development, is pushing us toward economic integration.

[Correspondent] As concerns bilateral relations between Algeria and some of its African neighbors, you have, in particular, intervened on the problem of the Tuareg refugees from Mali. You recently held a new series of meetings. Where at present do things stand on the return of the Malian refugees? Algeria is playing a major role in this issue, as most of the refugees are on Algerian territory.

[Dembri] If you take the problem of displaced persons in Algeria, we do indeed have some 40,000 Malian refugees in the south of the country. We are trying to make their lives somewhat easier, as best we can, by contributing our own facilities, and also making use of aid from international organizations, from some countries also, including France, in order to make sure that these people do not feel completely abandoned.

[Correspondent] Will you encourage their return, because we know that the program has been seriously delayed?

[Dembri] Absolutely. There are always difficulties, which flow primarily from the primary difficulty, which is that of transport—we are talking about enormous distances, arid or semi-arid regions; there is also the problem of the dispersion of these displaced persons. I think that we are trying to do something.

[Correspondent] Algeria is currently weighed down by its internal problems, and in particular, by the security problem and the lack of dialogue between the government and the Islamic militants. What can Algeria expect from an OAU [Organization of African Unity] summit, and from other African nations as far as this problem is concerned?

[Dembri] It is true that we may have a few hotbeds of insecurity in Algeria. It is true that there is some terrorist activity, but there is a momentum of political dialogue that is beginning to pick up speed, and this movement is irreversible. The transition platform enabled the opening of political talks to all the children of Algeria—all of them, without any exceptions.

[Correspondent] Including the extremist armed Islamic fundamentalists?

[Dembri] All the children of Algeria. We just have to realize that political dialogue can only work through the peaceful confrontation of ideas.

[Correspondent] So the OAU could do something?

[Dembri] The OAU can quite simply address the general problems of transition: I mean that we cannot achieve in a few years what the Western world took two centuries to achieve. Consequently, this transition must be accompanied in a responsible way by the surrounding countries, because it is quite clear that situations of instability here will lead to instability elsewhere. There is a kind of cosolidarity that must develop, which must emerge from this forum.

HAMAS Leader Calls For Dialogue, End to Violence

PM1006133994 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 9 Jun 94 p 4

[Report by 'Abdallah al-Hajj: "Nahnah Tells AL-HAYAH: Salvation Front's Split Was Expected"]

[Text] Jeddah—Mahfoud Nahnah, leader of the Algerian Reform Grouping Movement (HAMAS) [as published; HAMAS is acronymn for Islamic Society Movement], has cast doubt on the ability of the leaders of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] to stop the current acts of violence in Algeria. He affirmed that the use of arms "will never resolve the Algerian crisis." In a statement to AL-HAYAH in Jeddah, he urged a return "to the sensible option and the need for all political partners in the Algerian arena to sit together around the dialogue table, lay down their arms, and convince each other by reasonable and legitimate methods."

He drew attention to the fact that HAMAS has chosen dialogue. He added that "dialogue in the end led to closer views and led to a meeting between the Algerian defense minister and the FIS leaders in prison." Referring to the "split within FIS," he said that "such a thing was expected and will continue until the appearance of evidence to the contrary, especially after one of the FIS founders declared that the issue of the current violence in Algeria can be resolved neither by Cheik Abbasi Madani, nor by Cheik Ali Belhadj, nor by Cheik

Abdelkader Sahraoui—which proves that the violence has gone too far and is out of control."

Nahnah warned against interference by "opportunists, the economic mafia, criminals, fools, thieves, and people with ulterior motives acting under the cover of the prevailing violence in Algeria." He reaffirmed that the policy of taking up arms "will never solve the Algerian crisis."

Nahnah criticized the "exploitation of Islam, culture, and democracy for personal gain and the involvement of these matters in the issue of national dialogue in Algeria." He urged "everyone to give up and sacrifice his personal interests in favor of Algeria's general interests and the unity of its people."

He spoke of the need to "purify the dialogue issue" and called on the people concerned to "join the dialogue without seeking to settle historical, economic, or political scores, because such a dialogue would take us to safe shores at the earliest possible time and the least cost."

Nahnah urged the Algerian leadership to "declare frankly that it is not hostile to Islam and to clarify its position on the question of foreign aid and the way of settling the Algerian state's debts." He criticized the "tardiness of successive Algerian governments in rescheduling debts." He called for "a frank declaration of the reasons for and causes of its delay in settling this matter."

He also stressed that the old economic laws and regulations should be abolished and new laws promulgated to free the economy, investments, and specialization. He urged the current Algerian Government "to announce its boycott of the members of the former socialist regime and its bankrupt symbols, and to have the full courage to move on to a new political, economic, and social phase."

He warned "the Islamists and those who promote the ideologies of al-Khawarij and al-Hashshashin [renegades and assassins, old Islamic sects] and seek to foment sedition and chop off heads without clear reasons" that they "will meet the same fate as the al-Khawarij and al-Hashshashin in history."

On the current situation in Algeria, Nahnah said: "Algeria is witnessing blind sedition. Our motto will continue to be dialogue, tolerance, and the abandonment of personal interests in favor of the nation's higher interests, particularly that of upholding God's religion without conflict with the divine teachings, either in words or in deeds in society."

He praised the style of President Liamine Zeroual's government in dealing with "the FIS and in bringing together the political partners around the dialogue table, and releasing some FIS leaders." He asked: "If that is going to continue, what is the point of killing people and spilling blood on Algerian soil?"

Twenty-Five Terrorists 'Eliminated' in 5 Days

LD1206223394 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 12 Jun 94

[Text] The security services said today that 25 terrorists were eliminated and 2 others were arrested by the security forces in a number of operations they conducted in nine provinces in the homeland during the last five days.

The security services statement added that one member of the security forces was killed during an exchange of fire at Sidi Moussa in Tissemsilt province.

Egypt

Mubarak Receives Saudi Foreign Minister

NC1106121394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1045 GMT 11 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo, 11 Jun (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has received a message from King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, monarch of Saudi Arabia and custodian of the two holy mosques. The message, dealing with bilateral ties and the continuing coordination between the two leaders over matters related to the current Arab situation, was delivered by Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, who arrived in Cairo earlier today.

After the meeting, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal said that Egypt and Saudi Arabia are very concerned about stopping the fighting in Yemen. He said events in that country are very critical, declaring: We are devoting our efforts and energies to ensure a successful cease-fire for the good of all parties.

Regarding north Yemen's noncompliance with the UN Security Council resolution to observe a cease-fire, al-Faysal said that continued fighting hinders everything and does not merely hurt Yemen but its neighboring Arab countries as well.

Remarking that the wish to end the fighting in Yemen is shared by all the Arab countries, he voiced hope that this wish will find a favorable response, particularly during the current mission of the UN secretary general's envoy there.

Asked about the Gulf Cooperation Council's [GCC] position on the Yemeni crisis, the Saudi Foreign minister referred to the GCC statement on the issue and explained that its stance is clear. The GCC believes that continued fighting will force the GCC countries to adopt measures against the party that refuses the cease-fire. He said: Let us give the UN envoy a chance to make some efforts in this matter.

Minister Concludes Visit

NC1206093594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0810 GMT 12 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo, 12 Jun (MENA)—Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal left Cairo this morning after a one-day visit to Egypt during which he delivered a message from King Fahd Bin-'Abd- al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, on Arab developments and bilateral ties.

Jordanian Parliament Speaker Concludes Visit

NC1206093494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0825 GMT 12 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo, 12 Jun (MENA)—Tahir al-Masri, speaker of the Jordanian House of Representatives, left Cairo today after a two-day visit during which he held talks with Egyptian officials on bilateral ties and Arab and regional issues of mutual interest.

PLO's Sha'th Arrives, Comments on Donor Conference

NC1206100694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0915 GMT 12 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo, 12 Jun (MENA)—Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of international cooperation in the Palestinian National Authority, arrived in Cairo from Paris today.

In an arrival statement, Sha'th said that during his visit to France he attended a conference of the donor countries. He reported that the financing of the Palestinian National Authority is facing a problem because the World Bank has stopped paying out the sums promised by the donor states.

He explained that the problem has two causes, the first being that the donor countries usually finance long-term projects but do not supply funds for the establishment of an authority or government. Sha'th affirmed that the very establishment of the National Authority in Gaza and Jericho requires money to finance the expenses of activities without which the Authority cannot function.

He said the second cause pertains to urgent problems resulting from the ugly Israeli occupation, including thousands of handicapped and injured people and widespread unemployment resulting from the ban on Palestinians working in Israel.

Dr. Sha'th, who is also Yasir 'Arafat's adviser, explained that one of the most important results of the Paris conference was a declaration by the World Bank and the donor countries that the Palestinian National Authority has met all its commitments and that the successes made by the Palestinian police and the maintenance of the citizens' liberties helped to rally international support for the Authority. Sha'th said this will pave the way for real progress.

Sha'th announced that he will return to Gaza on Tuesday [14 June] to make the necessary arrangements for starting the National Authority's functions and to prepare for Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat's return to Gaza and Jericho as soon as possible.

Congolese President Arrives, Meets Mubarak

NC1106174394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1650 GMT 11 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo, 11 Jun (MENA)—Congolese President Pascal Lissouba arrived in Cairo this evening on an official two-day visit at the invitation of President Husni Mubarak. An official reception was held at the Presidential Palace in Heliopolis in honor of President Lissouba. A band played the national anthems of the two countries and the two presidents reviewed the honor guard.

President Mubarak held talks with President Lissousba after his arrival in Cairo this evening. The talks dealt with African and international issues of common concern and with bilateral ties.

Cairo Concerned Over Yemen Cease-Fire Violations

NC1206132094 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 12 Jun 94

[Text] Egypt has voiced concern over the repeated noncompliance with a cease-fire in Yemen, warning that a cease-fire should take priority over any other consideration.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Counselor Nazi al-Khudayr made a statement to our radio correspondent commenting on the unsuccessful attempts to maintain a cease-fire in Yemen. He said: Egypt backs any efforts to resolve the disputes among the brothers in Yemen in a peaceful manner that will preserve the country's remaining resources and the mutual trust among its sons.

Parliament Body Views Yemen, Ties With Sudanese

NC0406204194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1925 GMT 4 Jun 94

[Excerpt] Cairo, 4 Jun (MENA)—The Consultative Council's Arab and Foreign Affairs and National Security Committee has stressed the importance of halting the current fighting in Yemen and exerting efforts by all sides to stop the escalation of the crisis there to preserve the fraternal Yemeni people.

At a meeting this evening under its chairman Dr. Mufid Shihab, the committee urged a quick halt to the civil war there to prevent foreign interventions in fraternal Yemen.

Meanwhile, the committee members affirmed their absolute eagerness to improve the brotherly relations with the Sudanese people. They also affirmed the need to

take the necessary measures to prevent the escalation of the Sudanese officials' provocative stands. [passage omitted]

Iraqi, Jordanian Military Experts Said Helping Sanaa

NC1006190394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1750 GMT 10 Jun 94

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 10 Jun (MENA)—'Abdallah al-Asnaj, deputy prime minister and foreign minister in the government which was recently declared in south Yemen, has said that President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih has not complied with the cease-fire decision which he conveyed to UN envoy Lakhdar Ibrahim. The cease-fire was scheduled to take effect at 1800 Yemen time.

Al-Asnaj, who is accompanying Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, envoy of 'Ali Salim al-Bid, on his visit to Abu Dhabi, told a MENA correspondent in the United Arab Emirates that the areas of Darb al- 'Amr, Khormaksar, (al-Mu'lla), al-Tawahi, al-Hiswah, al-Burayqah, and al-Waht are being subjected to missile attacks and heavy artillery bombardment at the rate of three missiles per minute. He said that the bombardment is still going on.

Al-Asnaj said that well over 700,000 citizens in Aden became homeless when the pumps for drinking water, power generators, ports, and residential areas came under bombardment. He said that the situation in Yemen is deteriorating due to the continuation of the war launched by the Sanaa regime. He pointed out the south is complying unconditionally with the cease-fire decision.

Al-Asnaj urged the international community to provide the citizens in Aden, Lahij, and Abyan with drinking water, medication, and food.

Al-Asnaj accused military experts from Iraq and Jordan of being involved in the Yemeni war, adding that the war machines of north Yemen are completely under the control of these experts. He said that seven Iraqi experts have been taken prisoner by the southern forces and that 20 Jordanian experts have been seen at the Sanaa Air Base.

Al-Asnaj urged the international and Islamic worlds to support the sons of Yemen in the south and to condemn the aggression against them. He said that Abu-Bakr al-'Attas and his delegation will later leave for Hadhramaut to meet with UN envoy Lakhdar Ibrahimi. He added that he will return to Abu Dhabi on his way to the United Nations to follow up on the report that will be submitted by Ibrahimi to the UN secretary general.

AL-AHRAM Says Iran Helping Sanaa in Yemen War

NC1206211594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2030 GMT 12 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo, 12 Jun (MENA)—The newspaper AL-AHRAM expresses the fear that the war in Yemen may drag on, as the language of artillery and rockets continues to prevail over that of dialogue and logic and amid signs that foreign parties are interfering in the conflict. In its Monday issue, the paper says that if a French magazine's report on the flow of Iranian military aid to northern Yemen is true, this would be an extremely serious development, boding ill to the Gulf area, the Arabian Peninsula, and perhaps to the entire Middle East. The paper points out that current signs give credence to the French magazine's report. These signs are apparent in the growing influence of the extremist groups in the ruling structure in Sanaa, as the Reform Grouping is the main partner in the ruling People's Congress. Other signs are manifest in the facilities given by the Yemeni extremists to their fellows from other countries. They give them, among other things, shelter and transit facilities. This cooperation brings together the extremist wings in Yemen and their counterparts in Iran on the other shore of the Gulf.

AL-AHRAM asserts that the covert sectarian substance of this war definitely indicates that Iran has a hand in the war, particularly in view of the existing evidence affirming that Iran supports the Shiite az-Zaidiya sect, which historically dominates Yemen. Concluding its editorial, AL-AHRAM voices hope that the two parties to the conflict in Yemen will be reasonable and spare their country and their Arab and Islamic nation from the evil looming on the horizon.

Political Parties Seeking Legality Described

NC0806134494 Cairo AL-AHRAM WEEKLY in English 2-8 Jun 94 p 11

[Report by 'Abd-al-'Azim Darwish]

[Text] As four political groupings are trying to establish themselves as legal political parties, some opposition figures, arguing that greater democracy is a powerful weapon in the battle against terrorism, are hoping the national dialogue will result in the removal of restrictions on the establishment of political parties.

Under Egyptian law, a semi-governmental body called the Political Parties Committee is empowered to examine and approve or reject all applications for the establishment of political parties. Those whose applications are rejected have the option of filing an appeal with a special tribunal.

Opposition leaders view the existence of this committee will disfavour, describing it as a sword hanging over political pluralism, and would like to see it disbanded.

At present, four political groups, embryonic parties, are vying for the blessings of this committee. They are: Al-Mustaqbal (The Future) Party, whose founder, secularist writer Faraj Fudah, was assassinated by Islamist militants two years ago, Al-Wifaq al-Watani (National Consensus), which is a Naserist faction led by Kamal Ahmad; the Egyptian Democratic People's Party, a breakaway group from the Islamist-oriented Labour

Party, led by 'Adil Wali; and Nabil Fudah al-Nahdah (Renaissance) which is viewed by many as a front for the outlawed Muslim Brotherhood.

Ahmad Tal'at who, as Faraj Fudah successor, is fighting a legal battle to legalise al-Mustaqbal Party, believes that unrestricted freedom to establish political parties is a crucial weapon in the war against terrorism. "Just as there are those who raise the slogan that Islam is the solution, a counter-motto should be raised that democracy is the solution," Tal'at said.

With Fudah's assassination in the back of his mind, Tal'at believes that his party's principal battle will be waged against "those who politicise religion or vest politics with religious trappings."

Tal'at said, "There are those who argue that the principles of Islam provide solutions to various problems, but they should come forward with a specific programme outlining how those problems will be addressed. But to content themselves with merely raising this slogan is a form of intellectual intimidation... What is required is a well-defined programme that would be at the centre of extensive debate. No attempt to impose certain views, and no threats of punishment or reward, should be made."

Tal'at blamed the rise of terrorism on "the absence of democracy and pluralism, in the shadow of a single party and a single viewpoint. As a result, citizens despaired that changes could be made peacefully by means of the ballot box. They split into a passive majority and an extremist minority that believes that changes should be imposed by force. The way out of this dilemma is to broaden the exercise of democracy and remove all restrictions on the establishment of political parties."

Tal'at emphasized that legalised political parties alone can fill the political vacuum or else there will be attempts by minority groups to impose their views on society and undermine the very foundations of democracy.

Kamal Ahmad has been fighting legal battles for years to win recognition for his Nasserist Al-Wifaq Al-Watani party. Ahmad sought first to establish the party under the name of the Alliance of the People's Working Forces. But he was denied permission by the Political Parties Committee. He filed an appeal with the special parties tribunal but lost again after a seven-year fight. Now he has revised the party's platform and changed its name to Al-Wifaq Al-Watani and is keeping his fingers crossed.

Ahmad fought another related battle, contesting the political parties law before the Supreme Constitutional Court. He won a court ruling that a section of this law was unconstitutional. This is the section that makes support for the 1978 Camp David peace accords with Israel a precondition for legalising any political party.

'Adil Wali, a former MP and leading figure in Ibrahim Shukri's Labour Party, has also been fighting for years to gain a licence for his group, this time under the name of the Egyptian Democratic People's Party. Wali belonged to the "socialist" faction of Ahmad Mujahid that broke away from the Labour Party five years ago. But he turned against Mujahid afterwards and applied for the establishment of a Socialist Party. The application was rejected, however, by the Political Parties Committee as well as by an administrative court, with which Wali had filed an appeal.

Wali did not admit defeat, however. He rewrote the party's programme and filed another application, this time under the name of the Justice Party. He was turned down again by the Political Parties Committee and the Supreme Administrative Court. Now he is making a third attempt, by filing an application with the Committee for the establishment of the Egyptian Democratic People's Party.

Leaders of the outlawed Muslim Brotherhood deny any connection with Nabil Fudah, who is working to establish Al-Nahdah Party. But many political observers believe Al-Nahdah, if it ever gains official recognition, will be nothing more than a front for the Brotherhood, its passport to legality.

Prosecutor Detains 8 Muslim Brotherhood Members

NC1006192394 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 8 Jun 94 pp 1, 8

[Text] The Higher State Security prosecutor has decided to hold Ibrahim Sharaf, member of the Guidance Bureau of the Muslim Brotherhood, in custody for 15 days pending investigation. He also decided to hold in custody for 15 days the following Muslim Brotherhood members: Hajj As'ad Zahran from Damietta; Sayyid al-Naqqas from al-Gharbiyah; Muhammad 'Amarah from al-Minufiyah; Muhammad Suwaydan from Damanhur; Dr. Muhammad Sufani from al-Jizah, Ahmad 'Awad, assistant professor at Hulwan Engineering School; and Mustafa Isma'il, chairman of the Shari'ah Society in Bulaq.

The prosecutor also ordered the arrest of Dr. Hilmi al-Jazzar, a Muslim Brotherhood leader who has stayed in Saudi Arabia after performing the pilgrimage rites.

The State Security Intelligence Department arrested these Muslim Brotherhood leaders on the basis of reports that they have planned and financed terrorist operations.

Muslim Brotherhood sources said that the arrested leaders are innocent and added that this security move is meant to be an excuse to exclude the Muslim Brotherhood from the national dialogue.

Authorities Arrest 47 'Terrorists,' Seize Arms

NC1006212394 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 9 Jun 94 p 1

[Text] The Interior Ministry's security agencies have arrested 47 terrorists of a military wing linked with the deceased terrorist Tal'at Yasin Hammam. Thus, the

number of suspects from the so- called al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah [the Islamic group] has risen to 145 terrorists, who represent the basic echelon from which terrorists are assigned tasks in assassinations and explosions in greater Cairo and the Upper Egypt governorates.

The State Security Detective Agency conducted a series of significant security operations, storming terrorist hideouts in the governorates over the past days.

This group, whose members had participated in numerous terrorist attacks, primarily the assassination of the secretary of the State Security Detective Agency, Major General Ra'uf Khayrat, was tracked down in complete secrecy. All the suspects were arrested alive and the security authorities obtained important confessions from them on the circumstances of the crime and the monitoring and financing operations for which terrorist Tal'at Hammam and many of his partners, both in and outside the country, were responsible.

At the hideouts they raided in the governorates, which number more than 20, the authorities found automatic rifles, pistols, explosive charges, and other equipment, plus many organizational documents indicating foreign funding sources and the organization's planned targets. About half a million pounds and $80,000 were seized in the operation.

Court Holds Hearing on Attempted Murder of Minister

NC1206141394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1300 GMT 12 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo, 12 Jun (MENA)—The Higher Military Court this morning held a hearing on the case of the attempt to assassinate the interior minister. Seventeen defendants, including two still at large, face charges in the case. The presiding judge read out the list of charges in the case. All the defendants pleaded not guilty.

Muhammad Rashad 'Abd-al-Hamid Hijazi, the first defendant named, told the court that the confessions he made in connection with the case were extracted from him under torture. Hisham Na'im al-Husayni, the sixth defendant, admitted to the court that he possessed a pistol, as stated in the prosecution's indictment. His lawyer said that the pistol belongs to al-Husayni's cousin, who left it in the defendant's care when he went abroad.

The court examined 17 exhibits provided by the prosecution, including forged ID's and birth certificates, cassette tapes, and weapons.

Six of these exhibits presented to the court pertained to 'Adil Siyam, a terrorist killed in a police ambush in al-Munib. These included personal and family ID's and passports, some of which are Yemeni; they carry Siyam's photo but are in a variety of names.

Paper Assails Israeli Actions, Rabin's Statements

NC0306141494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0605 GMT 3 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo, 3 Jun (MENA)—The newspaper AL-AKHBAR has expressed astonishment over Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's abandonment of his previous approval of the issue of peace in the Middle East, especially with respect to negotiations with Syria.

In a comment published today, the newspaper noted that Rabin announced he had never said anything about Israel's readiness to withdraw from all the territories of the Syrian Golan Heights if Damascus agrees to reach a comprehensive peace with the Jewish state. During the negotiation rounds in Washington, Rabin repeated this promise over and over again.

The newspaper adds that on the Israeli-Palestinian track, Rabin has also issued threats and warnings, sometimes convincing and at other times flagrant, even after implementation of the first stage of the autonomy agreement between the PLO and Israel started.

The newspaper explained that as regards Lebanon, the Security Council issued Resolution 425, which stipulated the need for the Israeli forces to withdraw from southern Lebanon. In addition, despite the fact that negotiations between the two sides started in Washington and officially still exist, Israeli attacks on Lebanon continue. In fact, they have reached the stage where Israeli commandos kidnapped a southern Lebanese leader from his home publicly and with eyewitnesses to testify.

Concluding its comment, AL-AKHBAR stated that the Israeli practices confirm that all Israel's claims and promises regarding peace with the Arabs are nothing more than illusions and whims.

U.S. Position on Israeli Actions Criticized

NC1006094194 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 5 Jun 94 p 8

["Closeup" column by Salamah Ahmad Salamah: "Israel's Long Arm"]

[Text] Those who think that Israel's long arm of aggression will not seek to attain its goals under peace are receiving indications to the contrary that what Israel fails to attain by tricks it, will try to attain through terrorism and aggression. The latest Israeli aerial attack on south Lebanon, which killed 45 civilians as they slept, is proof that Israel at peace is not much different from Israel at war. It was Israel that abducted Lebanese leader Mustafa al-Dirani on the pretext of interrogating him to learn the fate of an Israeli pilot who was kidnapped in 1986. When some Hizballah members retaliated with certain trivial and heedless operations, not against the Israeli forces but against Israel's agents in the security strip established by Israel in south Lebanon, Israel used these incidents as a pretext to launch a bestial operation against what it called Hizballah bases in south Lebanon.

This barbaric aggressive behavior was not condemned by the United States. The aircraft that launched the aggression are U.S.-made. There are also indications that the United States did not oppose the abduction operation to get Lebanese Shiite leader Mustafa al-Dirani. U.S. newspapers published reports that the CIA requested that he be handed over secretly to interrogate him to obtain information about the death of a U.S. hostage in 1989. This means that the United States, which fights terrorism, does not mind taking part in it if there are some good results.

The Israeli aggression against Lebanon makes one believe that the U.S. peace efforts to resume the negotiations between Syria and Israel have reached a deadlock because of lack of desire on the part of the Rabin government to enter serious negotiations to achieve a total Israeli withdrawal from the Golan. For no sooner had Christopher returned to Washington and declared that he would not return to the region late in June as scheduled to resume his efforts, than Israel found that the atmosphere was ripe to deal several strikes here and there. Rabin seems to want to regain some respect in opposition rightist circles and face the wrath of the settlers whose fierceness was curtailed by certain measures taken within the framework of the Gaza-Jericho agreement.

Thus, the "peace efforts" seem like a successful public relations campaign in favor of Israel, enabling it to continue its occupation of Syrian and Lebanese territories and exhausting Arab water, as a recent UN report noted, and obtaining arms from the United States and the West in return for that fragile agreement with the Palestinians.

Israelis To Build Joint Venture Oil Refinery

NC1006093294 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 1 Jun 94 p 11

[Text] A number of Egyptian and Israeli businessmen have agreed to set up a joint venture to build an oil refinery in Alexandria at a cost of $1 billion. The refinery will be run by a joint company made up of representatives from the Israeli specialized group "Merhav" [name as published] and an Egyptian company called the "Salim Group." The Egyptian Government has promised to buy at least 20 percent of the oil produced by the refinery, which will begin operating in early 1997. A plot of land has already been bought for the refinery and an agreement has been reached with the quarters that will supply the refinery with oil. Ambassadors of the two countries have taken part in preparing for the meetings between the businessmen.

Libya

JANA Editor Reacts to U.S. Claims on Nuclear Plans

NC1006190094 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 9 Jun 94

[Text] JANA's international affairs editor has commented on remarks made by an assistant U.S. Secretary of State, who said that his government does not hide its concern over the so-called the nuclear capabilities of some states, including the Great Jamahiriyah.

The editor said: These statements, which U.S. officials are not weary of reiterating, can no longer be believed by anyone. In fact, they have become the object of world ridicule for several reasons, the most important being:

1. The Great Jamahiriyah has repeatedly affirmed that it does not have the capability to possess nuclear weapons and has not even thought of possessing them. Nuclear weapons are not the subject of its interest, which focuses entirely on planning, preparing, and implementing programs to build its economy and have sufficient water and food, despite the unjust measures used by the imperialist states to obstruct this and deprive the Libyan Arab people of the chance make progress on their land.

2. The U.S. official was not embarrassed to claim that his government feels concern over the countries he mentioned, including the Great Jamahiriyah. Who feels concern toward whom? The small people seeking to build development and progress on the basis of adhering to their sovereignty and independence are the ones who feel concern over the nuclear states and their arsenals of weapons against mankind, environment, security, and peace in the world and over these states' blackmail behavior against small people to sequester their independence, rob their wealth, and impose tutelage on them.

3. If the U.S. Government really cares for world security and stability, it should have focused its attention on the Israeli enemy, who has proudly declared before the world that it possesses nuclear bombs and weapons of mass destruction. Although this constitutes a real danger to the security, peace, and stability of the region and the world, the U.S. Administration is not worried by it. On the contrary, it has supported and participated with the Israelis in developing these weapons and helping them acquire more of them.

The editor went on to say: We are not surprised by this U.S. stand because we know the reasons why the U.S. Government has not taken any measures against the Israelis. Foremost of these reasons is that no U.S. president can win the U.S. presidential elections and enter the White House without the funds and support of the Jews. We also know that the real capital of the United States is not Washington but Tel Aviv.

Regarding the warnings and threats contained in the U.S. official's remarks, the U.S. Government is the first to realize that this style is futile with the Great Jamahiriyah and its free and sovereign people.

Airspace Opened To African Delegations' Aircraft

LD1106164694 Tripoli JANA in English 1635 GMT 11 Jun 94

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Sayf [June] 11, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—JANA has learnt that Libya decided

to open her national airspace to allow the transit of aircraft carrying delegations to the African summit conference which is due to start in Tunis on Monday.

Morocco

Prime Minister Outlines Government Program

LD1006133794 Rabat MAP in English 1229 GMT 10 Jun 94

[Text] Rabat, Jun. 10 (MAP)— Moroccan Premier Abdellatif Filali presented Thursday to the parliament the broad lines of the action program of the new government in matters of economic, social, cultural and foreign policies.

Priority will be given to the completion of territorial integrity through the consecration of the return of the Saharan provinces to the homeland and the carrying on of efforts for the settlement of the territorial dispute with Spain over Sebta and Mellilia and the neighboring islands, the new prime minister said.

Filali solemnly said the government 'will see to it that nothing put at stake the legitimate recovery by Morocco of its Saharan provinces and that the rights and peace of Moroccan citizens be strictly respected'.

Concerning Sebta and Mellilia, Filali said wisdom and shared interests recommend that Spain and Morocco resort to dialog and understanding to settle the dispute over the Presidios.

The government deems that King Hassan II's proposal to set up a reflection cell as the best means to reach a solution that respects Morocco's sovereign rights and preserves Spanish economic interests.

Underlining the national mobilization around the territorial integrity issue, Filali said 'We hope that we can rely on this same mobilization to address, together, the sensitive internal issues we are facing up regarding the promotion of human rights, the improvement of the public service, the sound management of justice on the one hand and the improvement of the living standards of our co-citizens, of employment and of education on the other'.

Filali pledged that the government will endeavor to consolidate the state of law and to see to it that all citizens enjoy their rights before listing all the initiatives made in this field during the past years. He said the government undertakes to further promote the respect and protection of human rights and to resolutely act to enhance the civil and political rights of citizens, improve their economic, social and cultural rights and consolidate the rights of women, children and vulnerable populations.

At the economic and financial scale, Filali said the government will carry on efforts for the modernization of the Moroccan economy through the adoption of 'an economic and social policy based, in the short run, on maintaining the major basic balances and curbing public deficits'.

The government also pledges 'to speed up the privatization process' and to continue the quest for a sustained development particularly in matters of employment.

In this regard, Filali underlined that employment upgrading will be at the core of the action of the government, which will encourage all job-generating projects.

In the social field, the government 'will strive to meet the basic needs of the population in matters of housing and health through the development of a social solidarity network.'

The government will also 'continue, in line with the royal guidelines, discussions with the economic and social partners within a franc, responsible and constructive dialog with a view to edifying a prosperous society that opens new horizons for the lower layers of the society.'

The prime minister stressed Morocco's will to efficiently participate in the edification of the grand Maghreb and to help Arab countries settle the Middle-East problems.

As to Moroccan-European relations, Abdellatif Filali said these relations which 'have developed through years are still marked by some disequilibrium in trade, economic and financial matters'. Moroccan-European discussions on a new partnership accord 'are facing serious difficulties and suffer from a divergence in approach and vision', the prime minister said, adding the offer made by the union concerning a new partnership form was deemed insufficient by Morocco, which presented, last February, counter-proposals to the union based on a geo-strategic vision.

'Morocco cannot conclude a new accord with the union, unless it is founded on sound and balanced bases, guarantees a genuine and a mutually beneficial partnership and meets Morocco's requirements in social and economic matters', he said.

The prime minister undertook to inform the parliament on the evolution of these questions and renewed his will to open up the channels of dialog with the parliament and create a new climate that consolidates the dignity of institutions.

The governmental declaration, made following the setting up last Tuesday of a new cabinet, will be discussed by the parliament as of next Monday before the confidence vote.

Cabinet Approves Program

LD1006141794 Rabat MAP in English 1254 GMT 10 Jun 94

[Text] Rabat, June 10 (MAP)—The Moroccan cabinet held Thursday [10 June] a meeting under the chairmanship of Premier Abdellatif Filali.

Filali urged the cabinet members to earnestly endeavor to implement the instructions issued by King Hassan II when he received the new governmental team Tuesday.

The cabinet then examined and approved the government program that was presented later in the afternoon to the parliament. Minister of state for the interior and information afterwards presented to the government council a report on the measures adopted by the concerned departments following the tremors that jolted some northern parts of the kingdom, especially the al-Hoceima province.

Sudan

Government Forces Recapture Kajo Kaji, Advance

EA1106175794 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1315 GMT 11 Jun 94

[Statement issued by Brigadier General Muhammad Bashir Sulayman, spokesman of the Armed Forces General Command, on 11 June; place not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] O you struggling, truthful Sudanese citizens: While we commemorate the hijrah of the Prophet which changed the course of world history, your sons from the combatants of the Armed Forces, and the People's Defence carried the message of this nation's first combatants to the best of their abilities. This was due to the firm determination of men, struggle by the brave, faithful Sudanese nation, and belief in the unity of the country. In response to the stratagem of the enemies, routing the scattered remnants of the treacherous army of the rebellion, your brave sons from the Armed Forces and the Peoples Defence at 0900 this morning on 11 June, invaded enemy positions in the usurped town of Kajo Kaji bravely and forcefully restored to the bold an honored and respected wedding feast. Praise be to God. The scattered remnants of the outlaws' army fled leaving behind their equipment and abandoning their positions.

O you, the generous people of Sudan, the Armed Forces which is advancing from one position to another in order to restore to this country its respectability, power, and territorial integrity, confirms to the distinguished people of Sudan that it will [words indistinct] in defence of this soil and its people, in response to the stratagems of the enemies and their lackeys. At the same time it stresses to the rebel John Garang and to all who help him that the path of peace and the vision of peace is as clear as the midday sun and the march of the proverbial heroes who recaptured Kajo Kaji today will continue until final victory is achieved by God's grace.

We hope this message will be accepted. Congratulations to the distinguished and heroic people of Sudan. Congratulations to the Armed Forces and the People's Defence. God is great and glory be to Sudan.

Minister Says Government Poised To Retake Nimule

EA1206150094 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 12 Jun 94

[Excerpt] Lieutenant General Hassan 'Abd-al-Rahman Ali, the defense minister, has stated that the recapture of the town of Kajo Kaji yesterday marked the beginning of the end of the rebel movement. His excellency said: Our people's Armed Forces are now at the outskirts of the town of Nimule, the recapture of which will be announced soon. The defense minister was speaking yesterday to thousands of citizens. They had gathered in front of the general headquarters of the people's Armed Forces directly after hearing the news of the recapture and cleansing of the town of Kajo Kaji from the filth of the outlaws and that the armed and Popular Defense Forces were at a maximal state of readiness to defend Sudan and to restore every inch of its territory which had been usurped. [passage omitted]

Al-Bashir Attends Rally To Mark Kajo Kaji Recapture

EA1206151994 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 12 Jun 94

[Excerpt] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, the president of the Republic and commander in chief of the people's Armed Forces, attended the big popular rally organized by the citizens yesterday evening in front of general headquarters to mark the recapture of the town of Kajo Kaji.

The rally was addressed by Major Gen. Zuhayr Muhammad Salih, the first vice president of the Republic, who declared that the rebels still had the opportunity to enter into negotiations for the sake of construction and reconstruction. His excellency announced that peace was prevailing countrywide and that enormous numbers of rebels were surrendering to the Armed Forces at the headquarters of state governments. He said the time had now come to get caravans of support moving to realize and restore stability following the defeat of the rebellion. He added that the mobilization of the ultimate force currently being equipped would move in order to bring about construction and reconstruction. [passage omitted]

U.S. Envoy Arrives With Clinton Letter for al-Bashir

EA1106193094 Omdurman Sudan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 11 Jun 94

[Text] Ambassador Melissa Wells, the special envoy of the American President Bill Clinton, arrived in Khartoum today. She was received at the airport by al-Sayyid 'Umar Yusuf Baridu, first undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and his excellency the American ambassador to the Sudan together with some officials.

Ambassador Melissa Wells, who was appointed during the past two weeks by the American president, will concentrate her mission on the support of peace efforts and humanitarian aid. It is to be noted that Wells had visited the Sudan formerly in 1981.

Ladies and gentlemen, Melissa Wells, special envoy of U.S. President Bill Clinton to Sudan, gave Sudan television the following report:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] I want to ask you about your purpose for visiting Sudan. What are you going to do? Have you any message for the president?

[Wells] I was just recently, a couple of weeks, appointed as President Clinton's special representative on the Sudan, and my brief in this job is to promote the regional peace effort that is currently under way to bring an end to the war in the south and to help smooth delivery of humanitarian assistance. And, yes, I will be carrying a letter for President Bashir from President Clinton.

[Correspondent] Will your visit be (?focused on) relations or it is an informal (?visit)?

[Wells] No, I hope that we can engage constructively in a dialogue as concerns the peace in the south. I have to my right here the president's ambassador to your government Donald Petterson who covers a much broader, wider range of issues and does so from day to day. My focus is specifically in terms of promoting the peace effort.

[Correspondent] Have you visited any countries before you came to Sudan?

[Wells] Yes, I started out in Kenya, then went to Uganda, Ethiopia, I have just come from Eritrea and now I am here.

[Correspondent] You are going to visit Waw [southern Sudan] and (?rebellion) have you visited Sudan before?

[Wells] Waw I have been to before, when I was just telling my friends here that my family and I made a long, lovely trip through the Sudan in December 1981. And we had some mechanical difficulties in Waw and so we spent a few days there and I remember how very generous the people were. They have beautiful melons in Waw and we bought a lot of them because, you know, not much food to buy along the way. And as we left at night, we were driving at night to avoid the heat, they saw us leaving and they pushed all these melons as gifts through our window. It was very touching.

[Correspondent] In Kenya and Uganda did you find or meet John Garang?

[wells] No, no I have not met Mr. Garang. I hope to meet him later.

[Correspondent] Thank you. [end recording]

Kuwait

Ministry Receives First War Reparations Payment

LD1206153494 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1313 GMT 12 Jun 94

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 12 Jun—Finance and Planning Minister Nasir 'Abdallah al-Rawdan announced today that the Ministry of Finance had received $1.397 million from the UN Reparation Committee. The money is the first installment for victims of Iraqi aggression and is in compensation for physical and psychological damages under the terms of damages/group B as defined by the Geneva-based agency.

Al-Rawdan told KUNA that the Ministry of Finance, in coordination with the public commission in charge of estimating losses resulting from the Iraqi aggression, would determine payment procedures to those who deserve them. [passage omitted]

The first installment sum is $2.74 million dollars [as received] which will be disbursed among 670 victims of the Iraqi invasion. They are victims as defined under group B terms, which includes cases of death and serious injuries. [passage omitted]

Oman

UN Special Envoy to Yemen Arrives, Makes Statement

JN1206140394 Muscat Radio Oman Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 12 Jun 94

[Text] His Excellency Lakhdar Brahimi, the UN secretary general's special envoy to Yemen, arrived in the country this afternoon on a visit to the sultanate.

He was received on arrival by His Excellency Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, and a number of ranking Foreign Ministry officials.

Upon arrival, his excellency said during his visit to the sultanate, he will have talks with a number of ranking officials focusing on the situation in Yemen. He said he held similar talks in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

He said the Sultanate has known amicable relations with all parties in Yemen, and that he counts on the officials in the sultanate, led by his majesty the sultan and his excellency minister of state for foreign affairs, to facilitate the mission and to render it successful, thanks to these relations and the Sultanate's known role on the Arab level.

Qatar

Yemeni Foreign Minister Basindwah Arrives

JN1106123694 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1150 GMT 11 Jun 94

[Text] Doha, 11 Jun (WAKH)—Yemeni Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah arrived in Doha today on a (?short) visit to the State of Qatar.

He was received by Qatari Foreign Minister Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jabr Al Thani [words indistinct] two countries.

Amir Confers With Iranian Oil Minister

JN1106134494 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1135 GMT 11 Jun 94

[Text] Doha, 11 Jun (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, amir of the State of Qatar, received Iranain Minister of Petroleum Gholam Reza Aqazadeh.

The QATARI NEWS AGENCY said discussions at the meeting dealt with bilateral cooperation and the situation in the international oil markets.

Saudi Arabia

'Source' Denies Riyadh Arming Aden Forces

LD1206192594 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 12 Jun 94

[Text] A responsible source today made a statement to SPA in which he said: Both AFP and AP reported yesterday [11 June] that 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ali al-Iryani, Yemeni minister of planning and development, told AFP that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia had become a party to the Yemeni conflict and that it was supplying the southerners with weapons.

The source said: We are not surprised by such completely fabricated allegations and lies coming from 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ali al-Iryani, whose hostile positions toward the Kingdom have been known for a long time, and this is not the first time that al-Iryani has violated the truth. In fact, he has made similar statements and allusions several times in the past weeks.

The source concluded his statement by saying: It is noteworthy that the picture conveyed to the custodian of the two holy mosques by Mr. Lakhdar Ibrahimi, the current mediator, from President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih is completely different in spirit and substance from the statements of al-Iryani to whom, were it not for our eagerness to clarify facts about him for public opinion, we would not have given any importance.

United Arab Emirates

Major Weapons Deal With France Reported

NC1206100094 Paris AFP in English 0928 GMT 12 Jun 94

[Report by Nadim Kawash]

[Text] Abu Dhabi, June 12 (AFP)—The French Giat Industries is pressing ahead with a major offset weapons deal with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and local officials said it will reap benefits for their oil-reliant economy.

Officials at the Giat Offset in Abu Dhabi said the multi-billion- dollar tank deal signed with the UAE last year was proceeding without hurdles and several projects would be set up in the Gulf state.

"There are no problems at all. We are going ahead with the deal and there will be several civilian projects here," one official said.

He declined to elaborate but UAE offset officials said the projects covered farming, banking, industry and other sectors. They said they would be set up jointly with national investors.

Giat won the tank deal after strong competition from US and British companies participating in an international defence show in Abu Dhabi in 1993.

Under the deal, worth between three billion and four billion dollars, it will supply 436 Leclerc main battle tanks from the start of 1995.

Experts said Giat was awarded the contract after it made a more attractive offset offer, including investments yielding nearly 60 percent of the deal's value. It was the UAE's biggest ever offset deal.

Giat President Pierre Chiquet said after the deal was signed that projects in the UAE would generate more than two billion dollars in 10 years and their turnover in the long run could exceed the value of contract.

Early this year, the semi official daily Emirates News said Giat had decided to restructure its offset programmes in the UAE, revising some projects and cancelling a contract with the French Offset Partners to supervise projects in the UAE because of contractual disagreements.

"The deal is going smoothly and there is no doubt it will have a positive impact on the economy," a UAE offset official said. "It will help us in our efforts to obtain technology and diversify the economy."

Giat has already launched a project under the offset deal, a gas- powered central air-conditioning fabrication facility.

Quoting Giat sources, the UAE daily Khaleej Times said on Sunday the company would soon embark on a project to build a residential complex in Abu Dhabi to accommodate Giat offset staff and their families.

A Giat spokesman refused to comment on the report, which said the UAE authorities had agreed to allot a plot of land for the project.

"The project includes 80 villas to house 300 French families expected to come to the country from June next year," Khaleej Times said. "They will live in the UAE during the entire duration of the deal—10 years."

It said some of them would be assigned to carry out military programmes, including training, maintenance and logistic follow up while the others will join the offset members already sent to oversee civilian projects.

France is the UAE's top arms supplier, which has joined other wealthy Gulf Arab states in bolstering their armed forces following the 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

Officials said the UAE would likely sign military deals worth one billion dollars a year until 2000.

"They all will be on an offset basis," one official said. "I think many companies will be interested because our offset programme is flexible."

The UAE introduced offset programmes five years ago in a bid to attract technology needed for its drive to build an industrial base to lessen reliance on unstable oil earnings. The programme stipulates that arms suppliers re-invest in projects that should yield up to 60 percent of the deal's value.

Yemen

Aden Forces Capture 'Sophisticated' Communications System

EA1006172094 Aden Democratic Republic of Yemen Radio Network in Arabic 1431 GMT 10 Jun 94

[Text] Honorable listeners: A responsible source at the Democratic Republic of Yemen Defense Ministry has stated that the popular resistance, in the center of Shu'ayb in al-Dali' Province, with rare heroism under the leadership of fighters from the war of liberation, yesterday repulsed attacks by the invaders of the bloody al-Ahmar gang, who were targeting citizens' villages and property.

The source said, in a statement for the YEMENI NEWS AGENCY, Aden, that the popular resistance succeeded in repulsing enemy attacks, on whom they inflicted huge losses, including the destruction of a military crew [taqm]. They killed Staff Lieutenant Colonel Salih 'Ali Salih Zahir al-Sanhani, in whose possession they found a quantity of drugs and important documents. They also killed a number of enemy officers and men, and captured a sophisticated communications system.

Aden Reports North Continuing Offensive

EA1006165194 Aden Democratic Republic of Yemen Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 10 Jun 94

[Excerpt] A responsible source at the Democratic Republic of Yemen Defense Ministry has issued the following statement to the YEMENI NEWS AGENCY, Aden: The forces of the ruling military regime in Sanaa have continued their barbarous offensive operations, including shelling and missile launches on residential quarters and vital economic and service installations in Aden Governorate. They have also attempted to advance on all fronts, but were repulsed by our heroic armed forces. The battles were continuing as this statement was being prepared today. [passage omitted]

Southern Official Rejects North's Territorial Claims

EA1006193094 Aden Democratic Republic of Yemen Radio Network in English 1600 GMT 10 Jun 94

[Text] Mr. Ahmad Sa'id al-Suraymah, the governor of Shabwah Governorate and the commander of the Shabwah Governorate military axis, refuted the declaration by the Sanaa regime that its forces are in control of 90 percent of Yemeni land. Al-Suraymah commented that this applies to the Yemen Arab Republic land. He told the YEMENI NEWS AGENCY, Aden, that the Democratic Republic of Yemen's forces are controlling 90 percent of the Shabwah Governorate, which the Sanaa military regime had wanted to occupy. He affirmed that our Armed Forces and the hero people of Shabwah had turned the aggressors away, after inflicting on them heavy casualties.

South's al-Jifri Speaks at Mosque on Northern Statements

EA1006193594 Aden Democratic Republic of Yemen Radio Network in English 1600 GMT 10 Jun 94

[Text] Mr. 'Abd-al-Rahman 'Ali al-Jifri, the vice chairman of the Presidential Council, accompanied by Mr. Sulayman Nasir Mas'ud, the member of the Presidential Council, today fulfilled the Friday prayers in al-Aydrus Mosque in crater. After the prayers, the vice chairman delivered a speech to the worshippers. He said:

We had tried before entering the authority to rectify the matter, and the Arabs and Muslims had also tried their best, but 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih refused. We had only to fight that group in order to defend our homeland. The vice chairman indicated to the strange decision made by Dr. 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Daylami last Monday [6 June] over Sanaa radio, in which he allowed the killing of all of us with our women and children—not only the rulers. He said that his decision included the weak people, and we have tape recordings to prove the issue of this decision over Sanaa radio.

Mr. al-Jifri told the audiences that we have nothing remaining except to fight on all battlefronts and here in the capital, Aden, in order to refute the false rumors. He said: You must know that our sons are fighting on all battlefronts, and we must know about their fate.

Aden Official Denounces Claims of Aid Convoy for South

EA1006200294 Aden Democratic Republic of Yemen Radio Network in English 1600 GMT 10 Jun 94

[Text] An official source in the Democratic Republic of Yemen says that the head of the Sanaa regime has announced that he ordered the dispatch of a convoy of food and material supplies for the citizens of Aden Governorate. The source denounced this announcement, adding that Aden Governorate's population is not beggars, and it cannot accept charity from those who aggressed on its homeland. The source said that the head of the Sanaa regime should rather stop shelling the residential quarters and civil establishments in Aden, and killing of the elderly, women, and children, in implementation of the decision by Dr. 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Daylami, who allowed the killing of women, the elderly, and children.

He added that such a decision is not approved by religion, morals, or human rights. Aden is also inaccessible, and it is not in need of the charity of those who try to destroy it. He should rather lift the injustice, corruption, and hegemony from our brothers in the north, who are fighting to get rid of his regime.

The source expressed regret and sadness that a people like those in the north remain under the rule of such people, who try to destroy everything in democratic Yemen, and try to prevent water from reaching Aden, and destroy the electricity station and Aden's international airport and vital establishments, and set its refinery on fire—though 30,000 persons depend on it for their living. They also threatened to prevent navigation in the Gulf of Aden, which receives foodstuffs and medicines. Then there may be a claim that they will send medicine and food for Aden's population. [sentence as heard]

Planning Minister: Cease-Fire Country's 'Only Concern'

JN1006181094 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 10 Jun 94

[Text] In an interview with the BBC, Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, minister of planning and development, has asserted that our country is strictly adhering to the cease-fire.

He said: We continued to watch the situation from 1800 yesterday until midnight, and all positions in Aden Governorate were sending successive cables saying that the rebels had not stop their artillery shelling.

He said: Our country has informed the United Nations of this, and reaffirmed that we are continuing to adhere

to the cease-fire in spite of the continuous shelling of the Armed Forces' positions by the rebels.

Dr. al-Iryani expressed the belief that the rebels and those who support them have no interest in the cease-fire because their objective is to summon foreign forces onto Yemeni land. He said: They do not have any consideration for Yemeni sovereignty. He added: The objective of the rebels is unreasonable and illogical, and shows no respect for the homeland's sovereignty. As for our position, the cease-fire is our only concern.

Answering a question on reports that the Gulf states intend to recognize the rebels, al-Iryani replied by saying: This will be considered a continuation of aggression against the sovereignty, unity, and safety of Yemen, and an attempt to perpetuate the shedding of Yemeni blood.

Sanaa Lists 6 Conditions for Dialogue With South

JN1006193994 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 10 Jun 94

[Text] In a pre-departure statement in Sanaa today, UN envoy Lakhdar Brahimi expressed disappointment at the collapse of yesterday's cease-fire agreement. He stressed that the conflict can be solved through dialogue between the concerned parties, but such a dialogue is still not possible as the south wants a compiete halt to battles and full northern commitment to a cease-fire before anything else. As for the conditions of the north, here is 'Abd-al-Salam al-'Ansi, chairman of the General Committee of the General People's Congress, which is led by President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, speaking to our correspondent Ahmad Birru in Sanaa.

[Begin al-Anisi recording] To agree to dialogue, the following conditions should be met:

1. The Socialist Party should issue a decision abrogating the secession decision.
2. It should clearly and frankly announce its acceptance of the results of the parliamentary elections held on 27 April [1993].
3. It should announce its commitment to the constitutional legitimacy and to dealing with the institutions accordingly.
4. The dialogue should take place in Sanaa.
5. The dialogue should not last more than five days.
6. The 16 Socialist Party members subpoenaed by the public prosecutor should not take part in the dialogue. [end recording]

Aden Claims North Never 'Serious' About Cease-Fire

EA1106131394 Aden Democratic Republic of Yemen Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 10 Jun 94

[Text] Informed military sources have unmasked the ruling military regime in Sanaa by finding out that it has never been serious at any time in observing the cease-fire declared by the head of the regime following his meeting with Lakhdar Brahimi, the special envoy of the UN secretary general.

The military sources reported that the northern commander of the military axis in Ta'izz had asked the northern units on the battlefronts to send a military crew to collect a cable which he described as extremely important. The sources confirmed the arrival of this cable to the fighting areas at 1730 today. It has become clear that the cable contains orders that the war operations are to continue and that the cease-fire is to be ignored.

Meanwhile, the sources have reported that the Popular Resistance in the (Amlin) center in al-Dali' Province repulsed an infiltration attempt by a gang of the regular forces of the military ruling regime in Sanaa two days ago [8th June]. The Popular Resistance succeeded in defeating the gang and forced it into retreat after destroying two military crews and capturing a large lorry carrying military supplies and ammunition belonging to the forces of the military regime in Sanaa. Meanwhile, the Popular Resistance is gaining strength in the various areas in driving out the aggressive invaders.

Salih Proposes Cease-Fire Meeting in Gool

NC1006211494 Paris AFP in English 2043 GMT 10 Jun 94

[Report by Laurence Peter]

[Text] Sanaa, June 10 (AFP)—Yemen's northern President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih on Friday called for a new ceasefire in the five-week civil war and proposed ways to make it stick this time, an official spokesman said here.

His government presented the United Nations with a proposal for the ceasefire to take effect at midnight on Friday (2100 GMT) in compliance with UN Security Council resolution 924 adopted last week, he said.

Salih told members of a special military committee to "supervise the ceasefire by holding the first meeting at a place called Gool," between Sabir and Dayr al-Sayyid villages at 11 a.m. (0800 GMT) on Saturday, the spokesman said.

Sabir is along the front line about 25 kilometers (15 miles) north of the southern stronghold of Aden.

The military committee of southern and northern officers was formed under a February accord reached in Jordan and aimed at ending a political crisis between the north and south. But the crisis erupted into civil war on May 5.

The new proposal came after Salih agreed to a ceasefire during talks Thursday with UN envoy Lakhdar Brahimi, but which collapsed around three hours later. A ceasefire for midnight on Monday also broke down hours later.

Both sides have accused the other of failing to honor the pledge to stop fighting.

There was no immediate word from the south on the "new initiative."

Sanaa has "put forward a new initiative confirming its keenness to maintain a ceasefire based on UN resolution 924, despite successive ceasefire violations by the dissidents since 6 p.m. Thursday," the spokesman said in the statement.

Salih describes as dissidents the forces loyal to his southern rival and former vice president 'Ali Salim al-Bid, who declared a separate state with Aden as its capital on May 21.

"These violations are still continuing up to this moment," the spokesman charged.

"Although the government forces have abided by orders of President Salih not to return fire, the dissident forces have continued their violations by launching heavy air and sea attacks on government forces in Aden and Abyan, inflicting heavy casualties and damage," he said.

"The Yemeni government told its permanent representative at the United Nations to keep the UN Secretary General (Butrus Butrus- Ghali) well informed about all these violations," he said.

It also told its representative to "submit new ceasefire initiatives provided the dissidents abide by it with effect from 12 midnight on Friday in order not to give the dissidents a chance to continue shedding Yemeni blood and executing their criminal plans," he said.

Brahimi left the northern capital Sanaa earlier on Friday, saying he was "disappointed" that Thursday's ceasefire had collapsed but that he had still made a good start.

He was due in Saudi Arabia for talks with Saudi officials about the conflict. Southern sources said he will meet with al-Bid and other officials in the southeastern port of Mukalla.

'Resistance' Repulses North in Ad Dali' Province

EA1106125794 Aden Democratic Republic of Yemen Radio Network in Arabic 2045 GMT 10 Jun 94

[Text] A responsible source at the Defence Ministry of the Democratic Republic of Yemen said that with unique courage and under the command of the liberation war strugglers the popular resistance at al-Shu'ayb locality in Ad Dali' Province yesterday confronted the attacks of the invaders form the aggressive al-Ahmar gang which targeted the citizens' villages and their possessions.

The source said in a statement to the Yemen News Agency, Aden, that the popular resistance have succeeded in repulsing the enemy's attacks and incurred heavy casualties on it, among which was the destruction of a military group and the killing of Staff Lieutenant Colonel Salih 'Ali Salih Zahir al-Sanhani and seized a quantity of drugs and important documents on him. A number of enemy officers and elements were also killed, and advanced communications equipments have been seized.

Aden Accuses Sanaa of Violating Cease-Fire

EA1106130094 Aden Democratic Republic of Yemen Radio Network in Arabic 2045 GMT 10 Jun 94

[Text] A responsible source at the Presidential Council in the Democratic Republic of Yemen made the following statement to the Yemeni News Agency, Aden:

We have heard about a so-called initiative from 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih presented by his envoy al-Ashtal [as heard] to the United Nations which stipulates for a cease-fire as from midnight this evening, and commissions what he called a Joint Military Committee, formed during the union period which has been blown up by 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, to examine the situation.

We would like to illustrate clearly the position of the Democratic Republic of Yemen in the following manner:

First, 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and his forces were those who started the aggression on the Democratic Republic of Yemen's forces and territories.

Second, 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and his regime have rejected all Arab and international initiatives.

Third, the Security Council has issued its resolution No. 924 and we had sincerely announced our adherence to it immediately after it was announced, but 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and his regime clearly refused to abide by this resolution until yesterday when he announced his adherence to its text and spirit and specified 3 o'clock in the evening for the start of implementing the ceasefire, though the resolution has stipulated for adherence to it and though 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih has previously announced two cease-fires which he violated.

Fourth, for the third time 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and his forces violated the ceasefire last night. The whole world knows that it was he who violated the cease-fire half-an-hour after the time he committed himself to cease the firing.

Fifth, we shall continue to adhere to the rulings of the Security Council's Resolution No. 924 without preconditions, and will only defend ourselves against any violation or aggression by 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and his forces.

Sixth, the Joint Military Committee or a Yemeni military committee, which 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih claims to have set up perviously, do not exist any more. International observers, not imaginary committees formed by 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, should monitor the cease-fire.

This the position of the Democratic Republic of Yemen which it adheres to and announces to the international community.

YSP Says Central Committee Members 'Martyred'

EA1106130594 Aden Democratic Republic of Yemen Radio Network in Arabic 2045 GMT 10 Jun 94

[Excerpt] The Central Committee of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] and its Political Bureau announce the death of the brother struggler Qa'id 'Ali Muhammad Salah, Central Committee member, first secretary of the party's organization in Lahij Governorate, who was martyred in front of his home in Dar Sa'd on Tuesday [7 June] night as a result of the indiscriminate shelling which the al-Amar gangs are launching on the innocent citizens and the safe residential areas. [passage omitted]

A few days before the death of the martyr Qa'id, his friend and comrade, who has the same role and characteristics, the brave struggler Naji Muhsin, Central Committee member, first secretary of the party's organization in the Ibb Governorate, Eastern Region, fell on the same road.

At an earlier time and as a result of a treacherous act which does not befit men, but befits the mercenaries of al-Ahmar gang and their agents, the struggler Hanash Thabit Sufyan, member of the party's Central Committee member, was martyred. [passage omitted]

UN Envoy Presents Message on Cease-Fire Initiative

JN1106053194 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 11 Jun 94

[Text] Brother Ambassador 'Abdallah al-Ashtal, our country's permanent representative to the United Nations, has presented a message to UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali including a new initiative by brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council and supreme commander of the Armed Forces. The message states the following:

The Republic of Yemen emphasizes its concern to observe a cease- fire in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution No. 924. This is despite the secessionist rebels' repeated flagrant cease- fire violations since 1800 on 9 June—the date set by brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Presidential Council chairman and supreme commander of the Armed Forces, after his meeting with Lakhdar Brahimi, the UN secretary general's envoy. These violations were still continuing up to the time this message was drafted. Although the forces of legitimacy and unity complied with the the Armed Forces supreme commander's order not to respond to those violations, the apostate and secessionist elements persisted in their cease-fire violations, intensifying their air and naval bombardment of our forces in Aden and Abyan governorates, resulting in material and human losses among their ranks. Despite all that, the Government of the Republic of Yemen has instructed the permanent representative to inform the UN secretary general of all those violations and to submit a new initiative, on condition that the rebels abide by the cease-fire as of midnight last night, Friday, 10 June. Out of the Government of the Republic of Yemen's concern not to allow the apostate and secessionist elements to continue the letting of Yemeni blood within their criminal scheme, the brother chairman of the Presidential Council has instructed members of the Yemeni military committee, which had been set up by a decision by the chairman of the Presidential Council and supreme commander of the Armed Forces, to supervise the cease-fire by holding its first meeting in a specific place named (Ja'ulah), located between Sabir and Dar Sa'd villages, at 1100 today, Saturday, 11 June.

Artillery Duels Near Aden Break Cease-Fire

NC1106105794 Paris AFP in English 0942 GMT 11 Jun 94

[Text] Aden, Yemen, June 11 (AFP)—Fierce artillery duels erupted near the southern stronghold of Aden on Saturday breaking the latest ceasefire in Yemen's five-week-old civil war.

Explosions could be heard from the centre of Aden marking an end to a lull in fighting after the ceasefire called by the north came into force at midnight (2100 GMT) Friday.

A southern spokesman also accused the north of launching an air raid Saturday on the Aden oil refinery but said the warplanes missed their target.

The refinery, some 15 kilometres (nine miles) west of Aden, was hit earlier in the week in northern air raids, and six oil storage tanks were set ablaze.

Earlier, northern army units loyal to President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih halted their bombardment of Aden and nearby villages, an AFP correspondent in the city said.

Jumhuriyah hospital in Aden, where the fighting has cut off drinking water supplies to the 500,000 residents, reported no new casualties since the ceasefire.

The government in Sanaa proposed a joint military commission to supervise the ceasefire but southern leaders insisted on international observers.

"The joint military commission formed at the time of unity no longer exists," said the southern leadership, which declared a breakaway Yemen Democratic Republic on May 21.

Minister Says South Rejected Bid To Stabilize Cease-Fire

NC1106141994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1330 GMT 11 Jun 94

[Text] Sanaa, 11 Jun (MENA)—Yemeni Planning Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani has said that what he described as "the forces of apostasy and secession" have rejected the new initiative by President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to stabilize the cease-fire in Yemen; the proposal would have gone into effect at 1800 yesterday. In a statement to a MENA correspondent in Sanaa he said that the "rebels" are continuing to fight with all types of weapons. He stressed that the "the forces of unity and legitimacy have completely abided by the cease-fire." He said that the "rebels" had refused to attend the Yemeni Military Committee meeting in the (Ja'walah) area, between the villages of Sabir and Darb al-'Amr near Aden, which had been scheduled for 1100 Saturday morning.

Al-Bid Briefs Ministers on Tour to Arab Countries

EA1106202394 Aden Democratic Republic of Yemen Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 11 Jun 94

[Text] Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, chairman of the Presidential Council, met this morning brothers Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, the chairman of the Council of Ministers; 'Abdallah 'Abd-al-Majid al- Asnaj, deputy premier and foreign minister; Muhsin Abu-Bakr Bin Farid, deputy premier and minister of planning and development; and Salih Ubayd Ahmad, minister of transport and communications.

The prime minister briefed his brother the chairman of the Presidential Council on the outcome of the tours made by him and his deputies to Saudi Arabia, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates [UAE] and Kuwait as well as on his meetings with the leaders of those countries and their briefings on the latest developments in the Yemeni crisis and the war imposed on our Yemeni people by the gang of the bloody al-Ahmar family.

Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid welcomed the patriotic personality of al-Ustadh 'Abdallah 'Abd-al-Majid al-Asnaj who returned to the homeland to participate with his brothers in building the Democratic Republic of Yemen, a new modern state, a state of law and order. The brother chairman of the Presidential Council expressed his satisfaction about the outcome of the tours made and praised the stand of those countries and their leaders on the side of the cause of our Yemeni people as well as their efforts at the Arab and international levels to stop this destructive war which causes concern for the security and stability of Yemen and the region. Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid reiterated the unilateral and strict commitment of the Democratic Republic of Yemen to the decision of the UN Security Council Resolution No. 924 on the cease-fire.

He stressed that all efforts must be concerted to implement the Security Council resolution and to compel the Sanaa military regime, which is challenging international legitimacy and is violating the council's resolution, to abide by the cease-fire resolution, stop the war and resort to peaceful dialogue to tackle the political situation.

Military Source Says Attack on Refinery Fails

EA1106190994 Aden Democratic Republic of Yemen Radio Network in Arabic 1630 GMT 11 Jun 94

[Text] A responsible military source at the Ministry of Defense of the Democratic Republic of Yemen [DRY] has made the following statement to the Yemeni News Agency, Aden:

The forces of the ruling military regime in Sanaa resumed this morning, Saturday [11 June], their desperate attempts to advance toward the Governorate of Aden from different fronts. Artillery and missile attacks continued on the residential quarters in the approaches to Aden. A number of aircraft attempted to strike Aden refinery but our air defenses intercepted them. The air raid of the hostile forces failed to achieve their objective.

All this is taking place in spite of the so-called new initiative put forward by 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih through his representative at the United Nations in which he claimed his wish for a cease-fire. This indicates that the ruling military regime in Sanaa is continuing its political and media game to deceive the Arab and international public opinion while at the same time it is continuing its desperate attempts to storm Aden. This is a dream in the mind of that regime under its head who is arrogant and blood-thirsty. This objective is impossible to achieve. The Armed Forces of the DRY supported by thousands of our people who have enlisted in their ranks have taken the responsibility of defending the DRY and its sovereignty, and will never allow the new invading aggressors to continue inflicting their folly and recklessness against the lives and possessions of our people. Defeat is awaiting the aggressors and victory is near, God willing.

Salih Reiterates Commitment to Unity, Cease-Fire

JN1106191194 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 Jun 94

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Presidential Council chairman and commander in chief of the Armed Forces, today visited the Dhamar Governorate. He was greeted by brother officials and a number of the governorates's shaykhs, notables, and community leaders.

The brother president visited al-Quds Camp in Dhamar and Dhafar Camp in [word indistinct]. He was received by the brother commanders of the two camps, officers, non-commissioned officers [NCO's], and the ranks. They expressed their gladness over the brother president's visit to familiarize himself with their conditions. They stated their high state of preparedness to fulfill

their patriotic duty and to make sacrifices in the cause of defending the homeland and its unity and its gains and democratic, developmental, and other achievements and confronting the gang of rebellion and secession that has sought to destroy and tear up the homeland. They emphasized that Yemeni unity lives in the heart and conscience of every worthy citizen. The Yemeni unity, they emphasized, is the culmination of the fight of strugglers and the sacrifices of our people's martyrs and their Armed Forces. They stressed that all sacrifices are nothing when made for the sake of the homeland. They noted the depth of their loyalty to God, the homeland, the revolution, and unity, and their support for our patriotic leadership under brother 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, who has shown himself to be a unionist leader dedicated to the nationalist principles and the causes of the homeland and its unity.

The brother chairman of the presidential council, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, spoke to the brother officers and NCO's and ranks of the Armed and Security Forces. He paid tribute to their high morale and the heroic performance of the Armed and Security Forces who have proved loyal to principles and who have kept their promise to God. They were truly the soldiers of right, revolution, and unity, who have rallied to the will of their people at all times and written bright pages of acts of heroism in defense of our people's right to a free and decent life. He indicated the challenges the homeland is having to tackle following the actions taken by the gang of rebellion and secession. President Salih reviewed this gang's diabolical scheme through which it has sought to tear apart the homeland's unity, which was forged on 22 May 1990 as a fruit of a long struggle and (?unique) sacrifices. The gang, he said, has forced this war on the homeland with the aim of destroying it and set out to ignite sedition among the sons of the one homeland to gratify their destructive selfishness and to serve their own ends, indifferent to [word indistinct] the chaste Yemeni blood that has been spilled. The brother president noted the devastation this has caused to the homeland.

All conspiracies targeting unity and democracy have crashed and will crash on the rock of the steadfastness and awareness and strong will of our people and their Armed Forces, the president said. He noted the gang of rebellion and secession's cease-fire violations committed within the context of their defiance of the will of the international community. This separatist, rebellious gang in the [Yemeni] Socialist Party, lacking all values and betraying all principles and covenants, has had no qualms about perpetrating the ugliest crimes against the homeland and the people. The gang is continually violating the cease-fire and flouting the UN Security Council resolution. We would like to reiterate here, added the brother president, that if this murderous gang will not be bound by the cease-fire resolution and continues to breach it—it is the fourth opportunity this gang has been given to abide by the resolution—the forces of unity and legitimacy are going to force it into respecting and abiding by it.

The brother commander in chief of the Armed Forces reiterated our country's commitment to all the clauses of the Security Council resolution. He stressed that our valiant Armed Forces continue to be fully observant of the cease-fire resolution despite the recurring acts of aggression on their positions by elements of this rebellious gang, which is in its last gasps of breath [word indistinct] destruction of all vital economic installations before its departure, including the Aden refinery and the electricity plant at [word indistinct] and other facilities as an act of revenge on the homeland and an expression of hatred for the Yemeni people and their achievements.

The brother president applauded acts of heroism by members of our valiant Armed Forces, who spearheaded the battle of honor and dignity for the homeland and people in the cause of unity, democracy, and constitutional legality. They have proved valiant heroes fearless of death in that they are fighting the cause of right against wrong. They are also fighting for the great principles and achievements that our people have fought for—unity and democracy, above all. He exhorted the brother heroic officers and NCO's of the Armed and Security Forces to show increased vigilance and awareness and to be prepared to fulfill their patriotic duty. A great people stand behind you [words indistinct] your generosity and sacrifices so that the banner of Yemeni unity stays hoisted over the [word indistinct] Yemeni homeland. Unity means pride, dignity, glory, and stability. No matter what the cost and the sacrifices our people and our Armed Forces may have to make, there can be no abandonment of unity. There is no future for Yemen without unity, asserted the brother president.

Council Member Reiterates Abidance by Cease-Fire

JN1106192194 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 Jun 94

[Text] Presidential Council member brother 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd- al-Ghani has emphasized the Yemeni Government's commitment to the cease-fire. The government has also ordered a halt to hostilities against the rebels who violated the cease-fire for the second time.

In a BBC interview broadcast yesterday evening, he [words indistinct] the commitment of the rebels. He indicated that if the rebels fail to comply, this means that the forces of legitimacy will have to defend themselves. Brother 'Abd-al-Ghani said the Republic of Yemen welcomes the mission of Lakhdar Brahimi, based on its acceptance of the UN Security council resolution on the situation in Yemen.

Asked about acceptance of the resolution, brother 'Abd-al-Ghani said we [words indistinct] dialogue and we have borne [words indistinct] its [word indistinct] for nine [words indistinct] and are prepared to continue for stability and unity. But the separatist rebels were not serious and [words indistinct] and now we announced we are prepared for a dialogue with unionists within the [Yemeni] Socialist Party [YSP], not with those who

proclaimed secession. Our dialogue with the unionists will be within the context of the Republic of Yemen and Constitutional legality, considering that the YSP is a patriotic party that has a presence throughout the republic's governorates. There are many top officials of the YSP in the Central Committee and in the House of Representatives, as well as party branch chiefs in the governorates who condemned the action taken by secessionists in the YSP.

Chief of Staff Emphasizes Adherence to Cease-Fire

JN1106201694 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 Jun 94

[Text] Staff Brigadier General brother 'Abd-al-Malik al-Sayyani, chief of the General Staff has emphasized that our Armed Forces—the forces of unity and legitimacy—have been fully observing the cease-fire resolution decision made by Lieutenant General brother 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the President Council and commander in chief of the Armed Forces, following his meeting with brother Lakhdar Brahimi, the UN secretary general's envoy. He indicated the government's response to the UN Security Council Resolution 924 on the situation in the Republic of Yemen and [word indistinct] and its compliance with all its clauses. In contrast, he added, the gang of rebellion and secession in the [Yemeni] Socialist Party leadership [words indistinct] international legitimacy the way it has engaged in crime and rebelliousness against national legitimacy and standing against national unity and consensus.

In statements published by the newspaper 26 SEPTEMBER today, he said our valiant Armed Forces will remain bound by the cease-fire resolution even if the treasonous separatists breach it and no matter what their flimsy pretexts to invite outside interference in their attempt to internationalize the Yemeni crisis. What is taking place in our country, he emphasized, is a domestic affair, which the forces of unity and legitimacy have managed to contain. They have also succeeded in defeating the rebellious elements.

He indicated that the great (?role) of the forces of unity and legitimacy to stand up to the gang of apostasy and secession has been reinforced by the remarkable popular cohesion shown by all our people's sectors [words indistinct] to stand behind the fighters in the battle for unity and democracy against the enemies of the Yemeni people and homeland. The Armed Forces that have defended the revolution and its gains are more capable [words indistinct] and aborting all conspiratorial attempts against it.

Minister: Saudi Arabia Providing Arms to South

JN1106182594 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 Jun 94

[Text] Sanaa today publicly and directly accused Saudi Arabia of involvement in the Yemeni war by helping the southerners and providing weapons to them, deeming Saudi Arabia a party to the dispute, as Yemeni Minister of Planning and Environment 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani put it.

The northern minister said Saudi Arabia is supplying the south with weapons it is purchasing from certain eastern European nations, such as the Ukraine, Bulgaria, Hungary, and Poland via al-Mukalla Port, where southern leader 'Ali Salim al-Bid is staying.

Al-Iryani said the Sanaa Government has conclusive evidence that al-Bid is being supplied with weapons—which he described as limitless—from Saudi Arabia.

The Gulf Cooperation Council states, except for Qatar, have implicitly recognized the Democratic Republic of Yemen proclaimed by al-Bid two weeks after the eruption of battles.

The northern official also revealed that the contacts made by Sanaa with some of the leaders of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] in the south have failed. This shows, in his opinion, that the politicians in the south no longer have any influence on military affairs. He added that Lakhdar Brahimi, the special envoy of the UN secretary general, did not propose anything new in his talks with officials in Sanaa and was satisfied with the suggestions made in the international resolution on Yemen. However, Sayf Sa'il, member of the YSP Political Bureau, said in Aden that he was optimistic about Brahimi's efforts, saying the main purpose of the mission is to enact a cease-fire because negotiations can never achieve anything as long as there is no cease-fire.

The two parties are still divided over how to monitor the cease- fire. The northerners want a joint military committee to be formed. The southerners, however, insist on deploying international observers. This prompted al-Iryani to say that the southerners want to internationalize the crisis.

Northern Yemeni Justice Minister 'Abdallah Ghanim said the southerners' demand for international disengagement troops is open aggression against Yemen's sovereignty and independence. Ghanim cast doubt on the credibility of the United Nations, which, he said, uses double standards and adopts its resolutions without heeding the right of peoples and countries to bar interference in their internal affairs. Ghanim said there are parties that support the position of the rebels. He said: We find it strange for these parties to offer such support and we ask them to stop it because it leads to more bloodshed, as he said.

Minister Asks Saudi Arabia 'To Leave Yemen Alone'

JN1206180394 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1705 GMT 12 Jun 94

[Text] Our correspondent in Yemen, Ahmad Birru, has met with 'Abd-al-Qadir Ba Jammal, the Yemeni deputy

prime minister, and asked him about the conditions set for dialogue with the southern leaders and his stand on the neighboring Gulf states, which implicitly supported the establishment of the Yemeni Democratic Republic in south Yemen.

[Begin recording] [Ba Jammal] We have laid down what we might call the principles of dialogue, the principles and bases of dialogue. These are nine principles [as heard]. We announced them and handed them officially to Mr. Laklıdar Brahimi. First of all, there is unity, the constitutional legitimacy, and the cancellation of the secessionist decisions. Then there is the unity of the Army—what remains of the Armed Forces and the vehicles and equipment should join and be restored to the legitimate forces. Also, the dialogue must be in Sanaa and be fixed at five days, and no third party should be involved in the dialogue.

[Birru] You said that the war was designed and produced abroad. Can you give as tangible proof of this interference?

[Ba Jammal] In fact we have many complaints against certain states in the region; that is, the Arabian Peninsula. Regrettably, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia always speaks much about Yemenis, its love for the Yemenis, and the stability of Yemen but regrettably the facts are the opposite of this.

[Birru] Have there been any contacts between Yemen and these neighboring states so they can change their stand toward...?

[Ba Jammal, interrupting] We appeal to the Arab and Muslim brothers in Saudi Arabia, for the sake of our neighboring relations and for the sake of humanity, to leave Yemen alone. [end recording]

Aden Accuses Jordan of Supporting Northern Cause

PM1006121194 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 10 Jun 94 p 1

[Report by Lutfi Shatarah]

[Text] London—'Abdallah al-Asnaj, foreign minister of the Democratic Republic of Yemen [DRY], has accused Jordan of involvement in the ongoing fighting in Yemen alongside the forces loyal to the Sanaa leadership. He told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT over the telephone from Abu Dhabi that 30 Jordanian military air engineers are equipping Northern U.S.-made F-5 fighter aircraft with spare parts—"which has helped to restore their combat-readiness, thus enabling them to participate in recent battles."

Al-Asnaj said that "the DRY authorities are investigating this involvement with the Jordanian quarters concerned and with a number of Arab states, on the grounds that this involvement is one of the factors contributing to escalating the war."

It is worth mentioning that a high-ranking Western diplomatic source, who asked to remain anonymous, told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that "some reports say that Yemen is obtaining arms from Russia." The sources added that "Jordan may be the channel through which the arms are imported for Sanaa."

Al-Asnaj pointed out that Northern aircraft, which have resumed their attacks recently, "are bombing civilian targets in the Aden suburbs." He stressed that "the DRY will cooperate with any measures taken by the Security Council to secure a cease-fire, and may apply to the Council again if [UN secretary general's envoy Lakhdar] Brahimi's mission fails."

Northern Warplanes Strike at al-Mukalla Airport

NC1106210994 Paris AFP in English 1931 GMT 11 Jun 94

[Excerpts] Sanaa, June 11 (AFP)—Northern warplanes Saturday bombed the airport in the city where southern leader 'Ali Salim al- Bid is based, a military spokesman said here after a third ceasefire in Yemen's civil war collapsed.

The attack on al-Mukalla, the first air raid on an airport to be announced by Sanaa since war broke out five weeks ago, "caused heavy damage to the airport and warplanes" based there, the spokesman said without elaborating.

There was no immediate confirmation of the raid which came hours before southern officials expected UN peace envoy Lakhdar Brahimi to hold talks with al-Bid in al-Mukalla.

Yemen's northern President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih called a second ceasefire for Thursday during talks with Brahimi in Sanaa, and then declared another truce for midnight Friday.

All ceasefires, including one declared here on Monday, have collapsed with north and south blaming each other.

Northern artillery meanwhile fired about six shells that landed near the airport in Aden, 300 kilometers (180 miles) to the west of al-Mukalla, and other neighborhoods, starting fires and damaging homes, southern officials said.

Officials at the Al-Jumhuriyah hospital said 18 civilians were wounded.

Explosions could be seen and heard from the center of Aden as rival forces fought artillery duels about 20 kilometers (12 miles) away—evidence of the collapse of the ceasefire called by the north for midnight (2100 GMT) Friday.

Southern officials said that northern warplanes also tried to hit the refinery in Little Aden.

Aid workers said offices of an Athens-based company working at the refinery, the Consolidated Contractors

Company, was hit and set ablaze, but there were no casualties as the offices were empty.

The refinery, some 15 kilometres (nine miles) west of Aden and vital for the south's armed forces, was hit last Sunday in northern air raids, and six oil storage tanks were set ablaze.

Earlier, northern army units had halted their bombardment of Aden and nearby villages, an AFP correspondent in the city said.

Running water was restored to some neighborhoods after repairs were made to part of the pumping station that was shelled last week, city officials said. [passage omitted]

Southern officials said on Aden television late Friday that they had recaptured almost all of the eastern oil-producing Shabwah province from northern forces after several days of heavy fighting.

UN special envoy Lakhdar Brahimi, meanwhile, arrived Saturday in the Saudi city of Jeddah from Amman after holding talks earlier this week in Sanaa as part of a peace mission. He also aims to meet southern leaders.

In Sanaa, a government official met with a UN mission seeking to organize relief for victims of the war, the official northern news agency SABA' said.

In Geneva, the International Committee of the Red Cross said one of its ships was waiting off Aden for safety guarantees before unloading emergency medical supplies for war wounded.

Two Killed, 22 Wounded in Aden Bombings

NC1206061194 Paris AFP in English 2314 GMT 11 Jun 94

[Report by Maher Chmaytelli]

[Text] Aden, Yemen, June 12 (AFP)—Northern Yemeni gunners opened fire on the breakaway southern Yemeni capital Aden Saturday, killing two people and wounding 22, the al-Jumhuriyah Hospital reported.

Shells continued to fall sporadically on the city centre Saturday evening [11 June], causing fires and destroying several houses, after a third ceasefire in Yemen's five-week-old civil war collapsed.

The worst-hit areas were Khormaksar near the airport, Mansurah and Ma'allah.

A northern spokesman earlier Saturday announced that north Yemen planes attacked the airport in al-Mukalla—where rebel southern leader 'Ali Salim al-Bid has his headquarters— and "caused heavy damage."

Al-Mukalla is located 700 kilometers (400 miles) east of Aden.

In the Ma'allah district here meanwhile a bomb exploded under a car, wounding three. Southern officials said the "sabotage" had been carried out by "elements of the Jihad fundamentalist movement, who are trying to destabilise the city."

Explosions could be seen and heard from the center of Aden as rival forces fought artillery duels about 20 kilometers (12 miles) away.

The north had declared a ceasefire to take effect midnight Friday, proposing a joint military commission to supervise the truce. But southern leaders insisted on international observers, a proposal already ruled out by the north.

The south nonetheless vowed to observe the ceasefire and to "act only defensively," but violent artillery duels around Aden continued throughout Saturday.

Two other ceasefires have been broken after only a few hours this week, with north and south blaming each other.

South Yemen proclaimed itself independent on May 21, four years after North and South Yemen had merged to form a fragile union and weeks after fighting broke out between the two sides.

Political leaders in the unified state, at odds ideologically, had never been able to agree on the administration of the country.

There was no immediate confirmation of the airport attack, which came hours before southern officials had expected UN peace envoy Lakhdar Brahimi to hold talks with al-Bid in al-Mukalla.

Brahimi met earlier with King Fahd of Saudi Arabia in Jeddah and with the northern Yemen president, 'Ali Abdallah Salih in Sanaa to promote support for UN Security Council resolution 924 calling for an immediate ceasefire and political dialogue.

The north has accused Saudi Arabia of supplying the south with arms from eastern Europe.

Here in Aden, running water was restored to some neighborhoods after repairs were made to part of a pumping station shelled last week, city officials said.

But electricity is still being rationed and occasional power cuts have plagued the city since its power station was hit Friday.

A member of the ruling southern Yemen Socialist Party council, Sa'ib Sa'il, said two standby stations had been put in service to guarantee power supplies.

In Geneva, the International Committee of the Red Cross announced that one of its ships was waiting off Aden for safety guarantees before unloading emergency medical supplies for the wounded.

A Red Cross official told journalists in Aden Saturday that nearly 2,000 soldiers and civilians were being held in detention in north and south Yemen because of the civil war, which he had left thousands dead and wounded.

'Source': Cease-Fire Violations To Be Confronted 'Firmly'

JN1206062494 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 12 Jun 94

[Text] A responsible source has stated the following:

The Government of the Republic of Yemen has stressed its sincere commitment to UN Security Council Resolution 924. To this end, brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Presidential Council chairman and supreme commander of the Armed Forces, issued repeated instructions to the forces of legitimacy and unity to abide by the cease-fire, and he set specific hours for that. The latest decision in this regard was conveyed to brother Lakhdar Brahimi, representative of the UN secretary general, who expressed appreciation for this new attempt and hoped that it would be complied with. However, the apostate and secessionist gang deliberately and premeditatedly insisted on aborting all those decisions in the hope that it would be able to peddle its criminal scheme against the homeland.

To put an end to this gang's plotting and treason, and out of concern to enable brother Lakhdar Brahimi to fulfill his mission successfully, the brother chairman of the Presidential Council and supreme commander of the Armed Forces set a new date for the apostate and secessionist gang to comply with the cease-fire, starting Friday midnight, 10 June. That decision was accompanied by the new initiative of entrusting the Yemeni military officers of the military committee, which had been set up by a decision of the supreme commander of the Armed Forces, with the mission of supervising the cease-fire. The committee had been slated to meet at 1100 yesterday, Saturday, 11 June. Although the mischievous secessionists' knew that that initiative and new date for their compliance with the cease-fire was conveyed to the United Nations, the permanent UN Security Council member states, the Gulf Cooperation Council states, and the Arab League, they persisted in their arrogance, exposing their ill intentions, of which we had been aware. Thus, they violated the UN Security Council resolution, hoping they would able to continue their plotting against the homeland's unity and safety. In this context, they have been continuing their ground, naval, and air bombardment of the positions of the forces of legitimacy and unity in the Aden Governorate up to the time this statement was drafted.

Persisting in defying the will of the Yemeni people and international legitimacy, the elements of apostasy and secession declared rejection of the military committee's supervision of the cease-fire implementation. They demanded that international forces be sent to the homeland. The Government of the Republic stresses that this is merely a new attempt to violate the homeland's sovereignty and independence, and that that demand has exposed premeditated intentions against UN Security Council Resolution 924. They want to abort the basic element of that resolution, which is ceasing fire in preparation for holding a dialogue. The Government of the Republic of Yemen has informed the UN envoy of its absolute readiness to start a dialogue immediately. However, the apostate and secessionist elements' ill intentions have been proved by the fact that they have demanded that international forces be brought in.

Concluding his statement, the source said: The criminal, conspiratorial schemes concocted by the plotting and agent gang will be confronted. This gang's continued cease-fire violations, which aim to achieve treasonous objectives, will be confronted firmly and forcefully. This gang must bear the consequences of its conspiracy. Seeking to dismember the homeland and shed the Yemeni people's chaste blood, this conspiracy proves this gang's treason and subservience. And soon will the unjust assailants know what vicissitudes their affairs will take [Koranic verse].

Salih Addresses Army Units in Dhamar Garrisons

JN1206064594 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 12 Jun 94

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Presidential Council chairman and commander in chief of the Armed Forces, yesterday visited the Dhamar Governorate. He was greeted by brother officials and a number of the governorates' shaykhs, notables, and community leaders.

The brother president visited al-Fatah Camp in Dhamar and Dhafar Camp in Yarim. He was received by the brother commanders of the two camps, officers, noncommissioned officers [NCO's], and the ranks. They expressed their gladness over the brother president's visit to familiarize himself with their conditions. They stated their high state of preparedness to fulfill their patriotic duty and to make sacrifices in the cause of defending the homeland and its unity and its gains and democratic, developmental, and other achievements and confronting the gang of rebellion and secession that has sought to destroy and tear up the homeland. They emphasized that Yemeni unity lives in the heart and conscience of every worthy citizen. The Yemeni unity, they emphasized, is the culmination of the fight of strugglers and the sacrifices of our people's martyrs and their Armed Forces. They stressed that all sacrifices are nothing when made for the sake of the homeland. They noted the depth of their loyalty to God, the homeland, the revolution, and unity, and their support for our patriotic leadership under brother 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, who has shown himself to be a unionist leader dedicated to the nationalist principles and the causes of the homeland and its unity.

The brother chairman of the presidential council, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, spoke to the

brother officers and NCO's and ranks of the Armed and Security Forces. He paid tribute to their high morale and the heroic performance of the Armed and Security Forces who have proved loyal to principles and who have kept their promise to God. They were truly the soldiers of right, revolution, and unity, who have rallied to the will of their people at all times and written bright pages of acts of heroism in defense of our people's right to a free and decent life. He indicated the challenges the homeland is having to tackle following the actions taken by the gang of rebellion and secession. President Salih reviewed this gang's diabolical scheme through which it has sought to tear apart the homeland's unity, which was forged on 22 May 1990 as a fruit of a long struggle and dear sacrifices. The gang, he said, has forced this war on the homeland with the aim of destroying it and set out to ignite sedition among the sons of the one homeland to gratify their destructive selfishness and to serve their own ends, indifferent to sacrifices and to the chaste Yemeni blood that has been spilled. The brother president noted the devastation this has caused to the homeland.

All conspiracies targeting unity and democracy have crashed and will crash on the rock of the steadfastness and awareness and strong will of our people and their Armed Forces, the president said. He noted the gang of rebellion and secession's cease-fire violations committed within the context of their defiance of the will of the international community. This separatist, rebellious gang in the [Yemeni] Socialist Party, lacking all values and betraying all principles and covenants, has had no qualms about perpetrating the ugliest crimes against the homeland and the people and about disregarding all values, principles, and norms. The gang is continually violating the cease-fire and flouting the UN Security Council resolution. We would like to reiterate here, added the brother president, that if this murderous gang will not be bound by the cease-fire resolution and continues to breach it—it is the fourth opportunity this gang has been given to abide by the resolution—the forces of unity and legitimacy are going to force it into respecting and abiding by it.

The brother commander in chief of the Armed Forces reiterated our country's commitment to all the clauses of the Security Council resolution. He stressed that our valiant Armed Forces continue to be fully observant of the cease-fire resolution despite the recurring acts of aggression on their positions by elements of this rebellious gang, which is in its last gasps of breath and which is destroying all vital economic installations before its departure, including the Aden refinery and the electricity plant at al-Hiswah and other facilities as an act of revenge on the homeland and an expression of hatred for the Yemeni people and their achievements.

The brother president applauded acts of heroism by members of our valiant Armed Forces, who spearheaded the battle of honor and dignity for the homeland and people in the cause of unity, democracy, and constitutional legality. They have proved valiant heroes fearless of death in that they are fighting the cause of right against wrong. They are also fighting for the great principles and achievements that our people have fought for—unity and democracy, above all. He exhorted the brother heroic officers and NCO's of the Armed and Security Forces to show increased vigilance and awareness and to be prepared to fulfill their patriotic duty. A great people stand behind you, rallying around you, supporting your efforts, and watching your generosity and sacrifices so that the banner of Yemeni unity stays hoisted over the united Yemeni homeland. Unity means pride, dignity, glory, and stability. No matter what the cost and the sacrifices our people and our Armed Forces may have to make, there can be no abandonment of unity. There is no future for Yemen without unity, asserted the brother president.

The brother president was accompanied, during the visit, by Interior Minister Brigadier General Yahya al-Mutawakkil.

Foreign Minister on YSP 'Separatist Elements'

JN1206065994 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 12 Jun 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah has said that Yemeni unity is an existent reality that was not imposed by force, adding that the separatist elements in the [Yemeni] Socialist Party [YSP] leadership are resorting to fighting to impose secession by force. He noted that Yemen is one state in terms of land and people and that the Yemeni people adhere to their unity which is an expression of their will.

In a statement to the Qatari radio broadcast yesterday evening, Basindwah noted that the secessionist gang violated the cease-fire announced by the Yemeni Government before the arrival in Sanaa of brother Lakhdar Ibrahimi, envoy of the UN secretary general. He added that this gang intensified naval and aerial bombardment of the forces of unity and legitimacy to call in international observers, something which is unacceptable. He said the military confrontation is not between sides, but between the legislative government and a gang rebelling against legitimacy and seeking secession.

Red Cross Aid Ship Stranded off Coast of Aden

NC1206071494 Paris AFP in English 0635 GMT 12 Jun 94

[Text] Aden, Yemen, June 12 (AFP)—Aid workers hoped Sunday to be able to unload urgently-needed medical supplies for Yemen's war wounded from a Red Cross ship stranded off the coast of Aden for 24 hours awaiting security guarantees.

The Bonsella has been off the port city since Saturday trying to unload its cargo destined for Yemeni hospitals where stocks are rapidly running out, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said.

Sandro Barana, head of the ICRC delegation in Aden, said they hoped to be able to enter the port on Sunday after obtaining guarantees from rival north and south leaders.

The Bonsella had tried on June 7 to enter the port but was prevented by the fighting.

The ICRC has been providing aid to both sides in the Yemen's civil war which broke out on May 5 between troops loyal to President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and his southern rival 'Ali Salim al-Bid.

Northern Yemeni gunners killed two and wounded 22 in Aden late Saturday in the latest round of fighting which has seen three ceasefires collapse.

House Briefed on Supply Situation, UN Mission

JN1206144494 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 12 Jun 94

[Text] The House of Representatives convened under Speaker 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar this morning. The session was attended by brothers Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman 'Abd-al-Qadir Bafadl, minister of supply and trade; 'Ali Salih al-Salami, minister of finance; Khalid 'Abd-al-Salam Karman, minister of legal affairs; Muhammad Ahmad al-Junayd, governor of the Yemeni Central Bank; and Jamal Muhammad 'Abduh, deputy minister of transport; along with representatives of public supply corporations.

Representatives of the government reported on financial, supply, and economic matters and set out ways to promote the country's national economy and put its financial and monetary affairs in order. They emphasized that the government is capable of moving and continuing to meet the public requirements for food items and basic services throughout the Republic of Yemen and those of official and private organizations to keep the developmental process going.

The House then heard a brief report about the special parliamentary committee it assigned to study the developments that our country has witnessed [words indistinct] in connection with forming parliamentary delegations to be sent out to brotherly and friendly states and the other functions of the committee.

House Speaker Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar then reported to the deputies about the outcome of his meeting with brother Lakhdar Brahimi, the UN secretary general's special envoy to the Republic of Yemen. The meeting was good, and Brahimi came out with the impression that the Yemeni people were wedded to their unity and resolved to stand up to the rebellious, separatist elements. What is happening in Yemen, Brahimi was told, is a domestic affair, the house speaker added.

The House of Representatives is to reconvene tomorrow morning, Monday, God willing.

Northern Troops Advance Toward al-Bid's Home Port

NC1206145394 Paris AFP in English 1407 GMT 12 Jun 94

[Report by Souleimane Nimer]

[Text] Mayfa'ah, Yemen, June 12 (AFP)—Northern Yemeni forces are closing in on the home turf of southern leader 'Ali Salim al-Bid and were Sunday posted 55 kilometres (33 miles) from the port city of al-Mukalla in Hadhramaut Province.

It was the first time since the civil war broke out five weeks ago that President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's troops were reported to be in Hadhramaut, with the fighting so far centred around Aden and Shabwah provinces.

Al-Bid, who declared a breakaway southern state on May 21, has been based in his home town of al-Mukalla for several weeks, after moving from his political headquarters in the southern port of Aden.

UN peace envoy Lakhdar Ibrahimi was Sunday headed for al-Mukalla to meet al-Bid, after visits to Sanaa, Amman, the Saudi city of Jeddah, and Muscat.

"Our forces are ready to mount an assault on al-Mukalla within 48 hours, once we have received the order from the military command in Sanaa," Colonel 'Abdallah 'Aliwi told an AFP correspondent in Mayfa', west of the port.

The first northern lines were around 55 kilometres (33 miles) from al-Mukalla, in a mountainous a?ea overlooking the coastal town of Burum on the Arabian Sea. Another officer said the forward positions were established Thursday night.

The two sides fight artillery duels and southern warplanes carry out raids over the northern army posts, he said.

Three soldiers were wounded on Saturday as shells crashed around 20 metres (yards) from an army escort for journalists touring the region. Northern units hit back with rounds of artillery fire.

"If the southern bombardment keeps up, we will be forced to resume our advance toward Burum and al-Mukalla," said Colonel 'Ali Haydar Salih, head of the army's 5th Brigade which was fortifying its positions.

On the road from 'Ataq in the neighbouring oil province of Shabwah and Mayfa'ah, northern troops have total control.

But the route was filled with craters, which northern officers said were caused by southern air raids. The empty casings of anti- aircraft rockets littered the sides of the road.

Aden Denies Shelling of al-Mukalla Airport

EA1206172594 Aden Democratic Republic of Yemen Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 12 Jun 94

[Excerpt] A responsible source at the Defense Ministry of the Democratic Republic of Yemen has categorically denied that Rayyan Airport [serving al-Mukalla] had been rendered inoperable or had suffered any kind of damage. The source said all democratic Yemen's airports with the exception of that at Ataq were operational. The source expressed amazement that it was Israel radio which had carried the report by the military spokesman in Sanaa that northern forces yesterday evening allegedly shelled al-Mukalla's airport. [passage omitted]

Attacks on Aden Airport, Refinery Resisted

EA1206190194 Aden Democratic Republic of Yemen Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 12 Jun 94

[Excerpt] An official source in the Democratic Republic of Yemen [DRY] has issued the following statement to the Yemeni News Agency, Aden: The Sanaa regime has continued to play the cease-fire declaration game by first stating the timing of a cease-fire and then throwing its forces into a new act of aggression by striking at residential quarters and vital installations. It then claims the DRY is the one breaking the cease-fire. Yesterday the (?collapsing) Sanaa regime said we had broken the cease-fire.

For the fifth time they declared a cease-fire and then ordered their forces to attack on all fronts, while sending their aircraft and launching their shells and missiles against peaceful residents and vital installations. They made several such attacks this morning on the Aden refinery and its civilian airport and mounted attacks and shelling on all fronts. Our forces and people are heroically resisting and are exhibiting legendary steadfastness. [passage omitted]

YSP Secretary Discusses Sanaa's Aims, UN Envoy

EA1206201794 Aden Democratic Republic of Yemen Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 12 Jun 94

[Excerpts] Brother Dr. Sayf Sa'il Khalid, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] Central Committee, met yesterday with representatives of newspapers and news agencies both Arab and international who are in Aden to cover the events and destructive war waged by the Sanaa regime against our people in the Democratic Republic of Yemen. During the meeting Dr. Sayf Sa'il briefed the press and news agency correspondents on the latest developments in the military and political situation in the Yemeni arena.

During his briefing, he said that the social and political forces, which were organizing and pushing the war were fossilized fundamentalists, besides some shaykh-based and backward tribalist forces and some totalitarian bureaucratic civilian and military leaders in the Sanaa regime. He said that the basic objectives of these forces was not the defense of unity but the imposition of a backward, fundamentalist, military, totalitarian and dictatorial regime in Yemen which would strike down everything relating to modernism, democracy, and civilization, thus taking Yemen many steps backward. He said that the victims of this war were the Yemeni people who had no control over their affairs regardless of their groups or whether they were elderly people, heroes, men or women. The war had consumed thousands of people, destroyed the economic and military foundations of Yemen, and destabilized the moral and cultural ideals of the Yemeni people [passage omitted] In his reply to a question connected with the position of the Governorate of Aden, Dr. Sayf Sa'il said that Aden would be a hard nut to crack and we would not allow it to fall, whatever the price. He pointed out that great victories had been achieved in the governorates of Shabwah, al-Dali, and Radfan and yet one should not talk about victories in this war because the Yemeni people were its fuel.

With regard to the position relating to the UN Security Council decision and the mission of Lakhdar Brahimi, the envoy of the UN secretary general, Dr. Sayf Sa'il said: We welcomed the Security Council resolution when it was issued and announced our commitment to it. However, the other side is the one that violates this resolution. It verbalizes its commitment to it but on the ground it practices the opposite under the illusion of achieving victories and imposing a fait accompli. This is false and deceptive for those laboring under it.

In conclusion, he referred to the importance of the role of Lakhdar Brahimi and said: We are awaiting his arrival in Aden because the urgent task is to stop the war and later settle the dispute through dialogue.

Premier al-'Attas on Priority Task of Halting War

PM1006121994 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 10 Jun 94 p 3

[Report by Taj-al-Din 'Abd-al-Haqq]

[Text] Abu Dhabi—Engineer Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, prime minister of the Democratic Republic of Yemen [DRY], has said that Aden does not object to the dispatch to Yemen of an Arab deterrent force to observe the cease-fire and disengage the forces.

He said this in a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Abu Dhabi yesterday. Al-'Attas said that the DRY's priority now is "a cease-fire and then to discuss the procedures for disengaging the forces and deploying observers."

He added that the DRY urges the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states and Egypt, to which the credit for the UN Security Council resolution goes, to continue their role in the Security Council so that the council may

continue to implement its resolution and take the necessary measures for that in accordance with the stipulations of the UN Charter.

Al-'Attas said that "Recognition of the DRY is not our priority, because recognition has become a reality since war broke out. The pressing question now is to halt the war." He pointed out that northern forces have recently—having failed to achieve the aims it had set for themselves—resorted to hitting residential areas and civilian and economic installations. Al-'Attas said that Aden's contacts with the GCC states have borne fruit over the past two days, as the United States has issued a new statement expressing utmost concern over the continuation of the fighting and openly expressing its position calling for an immediate halt to the war.

He stressed that the continuation of the war will result in numerous complications, and that "the northerners' insistence on continuing it reflects despair and loss of control."

On the Arab League's exclusion from the diplomatic efforts Aden is making, al-'Attas said that "the DRY has from the outset referred to the Arab League, and contacts are continuing with it, as a meeting has been held with the Arab League secretary general."

He pointed out that the league supports the UN Security Council resolution, but the conditions the Arab League is experiencing are not helping it to take a decision. He said that "the DRY welcomes any role by the league in the framework of the UN Security Council resolution."

Basindwah Returns From Qatari Visit

JN1206164194 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 12 Jun 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah returned to Sanaa this afternoon at the end of a working visit to the Qatari capital, Doha. During the visit he delivered a message from Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, to his brother His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, amir of the State of Qatar, dealing with the latest political developments in the Yemeni arena.

In a statement to the Yemeni News Agency, SABA', the foreign minister expressed his satisfaction with the results of his visit to the State of Qatar.

He said that during his meetings with the amir of Qatar and ranking Qatari officials he conveyed the greetings and appreciation of the Yemeni political leadership, led by Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Presidential Council chairman and commander-in chief of the Armed Forces, for the principled and firm pan-Arab positions the State of Qatar on various Arab and fateful issues, including the Yemeni crisis.

The minister added that he reviewed with the Qatari officials relations of cooperation between the two sisterly countries and issues of bilateral interest.

Oil Minister Comments on Return From UK, France

JN1206174794 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 12 Jun 94

[Text] Brother Faysal Bin-'Uthman Bin-Shamlan, minister of oil and mineral resources, returned to Sanaa this evening from working visits to the United Kingdom and France. The brother minister told the Yemeni News Agency, SABA', that he held talks during his visit to London with executives of some British investment firms, especially those active in the area of oil exploration in the Republic of Yemen. These firms, he indicated, have shown a readiness to send their experts back to resume work as early as this week alongside the local personnel who have stayed on their job. Brother Bin-Shamlan added that he held similar talks in the French capital, Paris, with officials of the Totale [word indistinct] about the exploitation of the (Jannah) oilfield in implementation of a Cabinet decision. The brother minister said the producing companies, like (Hans) and (Sanvienee Ofti) have not halted their operations.

Visit of UN Special Envoy Brahimi Detailed

Meets House Speaker in Sanaa

JN1006160194 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 10 Jun 94

[Text] House of Representatives Speaker Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin- Husayn al-Ahmar this morning met with brother Lakhdar Brahimi, envoy of UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Butrus Ghali. Brother Dr. 'Abd-al-Wahhab Mahmud, staff member of the House Speaker's Office, and several House deputies attended.

At the outset of the meeting, the brother House speaker welcomed brother Lakhdar Brahimi in his second home, the Republic of Yemen. He added: We thank you for bothering to make this trip to achieve the mission assigned to you—a humanitarian Arab mission. It is a duty that must be performed by a well-known Arab figure, like you. This is because you are a fraternal Arab who believes in Arab unity and bringing the peoples of various countries together. God willing, your mission will be a success. We will support you.

Shaykh al-Ahmar affirmed that what is taking place in the Republic of Yemen is a domestic affair. Brother Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar discussed Yemeni unity, saying: Yemeni unity has been blessed by all fraternal Arabs, who have deemed it a step along the road of the desired Arab unity, which has long been the dream of the Arabs. The Arabs have deemed unity the Arab nation's (?sublime) objective.

Brother al-Ahmar reiterated that any laxity toward Yemeni unity would be a departure from this objective, which we all seek to achieve.

During this meeting, the brother House speaker also explained the joint unity-orientated action from the outset until it was crowned by the proclamation of the Republic of Yemen in 1990. Unity was achieved through democratic methods, dialogue, and peaceful means. It enjoyed the broad support of all sectors of the people, al-Ahmar said.

The House speaker indicated that Yemen—territory and people—has always been united. But, apparently, there were two distinct regimes.

Shaykh al-Ahmar elaborated on the crisis since its eruption, noting that certain elements within the leadership of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] fabricated it, until these elements caused a flare-up in the military situation on 27 April 1994—the first anniversary of the parliamentary elections held in united Yemen.

The House speaker concluded by saying: The most important issues are Yemeni unity, democracy, and legitimacy. He affirmed that unity is the most important thing that concerns the people and their representatives. The choice they are facing is between either safeguarding unity or death, he contended.

For his part, brother Lakhdar Brahimi, envoy of the UN secretary general, spoke, saying: Yesterday and the day before yesterday, I had the honor of meeting several officials, headed by the brother Presidential Council chairman. I have also met with representatives of the political parties. Today, I am meeting with you. The mission I am conducting at the instructions of the UN secretary general is aimed at enabling me to find the facts pertaining to the situation of the brothers in this country, and informing them that the international community is concerned over what is taking place in this country, and that the brothers are required to overcome their difficulties by themselves.

Brahimi added: I feel that I am in my own country, and among my brothers. We are agreed that Yemen is an important country, with and age-old history, and that it is only natural for difficulties to emerge in all countries and societies. God willing, we will overcome these difficulties. The brothers reiterated to me at previous meetings that dialogue is an approach acceptable to Yemenis. God willing, dialogue will help create a strong Yemen that contributes to the well-being of its people and its neighbors.

Afterward, brother Lakhdar Brahimi listened to the views of the House members who attended the meeting, who represent various parliamentary blocs at the House of Representatives. These deputies represent parties, political organizations, and various Yemeni governorates. Some of them are independents.

The House members asserted that Yemeni unity has been established through peaceful and democratic means, that this unity has been grounded in dialogue, and that Yemeni unity has been achieved through a popular and democratic will, without any pressures. They added that secession is meant to be forced on us. They hoped that fraternal Arabs will support Yemeni unity, because it is the first cornerstone in the edifice of Arab unity. They went on to say that bias in favor of anything other than Yemeni unity is tantamount to supporting fighting. Besides, the entire Yemeni people are unified. They adhere to unity, and can in no way accept secession.

The House members noted that those who declared secession constitute a small minority that rebelled against legitimacy, one that does not represent the YSP. This is because it is an established fact that the YSP has supported and backed unity. The deputies affirmed that dialogue must have bases. One of these bases is that any political solution to the crisis must safeguard Yemeni unity. Any such solutions should not result in tearing Yemen apart after it has been united, the deputies argued.

The parliamentarians affirmed the need for the United Nations to protect legitimacy and consecrate Yemeni unity, because unity came as a response to the will and demands of the people, who supported the Constitution in a public referendum and backed constitutional legitimacy at the polling stations on 27 April 1993, when they elected their representatives to the first parliament of unified Yemen. Consequently, the people unanimously support unity and legitimacy. They will not abandon unity, regardless of the sacrifices entailed.

Makes Statement, Departs Sanaa

JN1006110694 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1040 GMT 10 Jun 94

[Text] Brother Lakhdar Brahimi, the UN secretary general's special envoy, left Sanaa at noon today at the end of a two-day visit to our country. During the visit, he met with Presidential Council Chairman brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, government officials, and the leaders of political parties and organizations.

In a statement to the Yemeni News Agency, SABA', the international envoy said he thanks all those he met and who made it easy for him to carry out his mission in our country. He said his visit was a good beginning. He added: However, we aspire for much more. We aspire to see the problem that brought us here solved.

Brother Lakhdar Brahimi thanked the brother officials of our country for their abidance once again by the cease-fire that was announced yesterday and which made him optimistic. He said he is disappointed because the cease-fire did not hold last night.

Further on Predeparture Statement

JN1006134994 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 10 Jun 94

[Text] Brother Lakhdar Brahimi, envoy of UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Ghali, left Sanaa at noon today at the end of a two-day visit to our country. During the visit, he met with Presidential Council Chairman brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, government officials, and leaders of political parties and organizations.

In a statement to the Yemeni News Agency, SABA', the UN envoy said he thanks all those with whom he met and who made it easy for him to carry out his mission in our country. He added that his visit was a good beginning. He went on to say: However, we aspire for much more. We aspire to see the problem that brought us here solved.

Brother Lakhdar Brahimi thanked the brother officials in our country for their abidance once again by the cease-fire that was announced yesterday, and which made him optimistic. He said he is disappointed because the cease-fire did not hold last night.

Brahimi went on to say: These issues are not easy. We are determined to persist with our demand that the cease-fire hold. God willing, we will see all sides, speak the same language, and make the same demands.

In his statement, the UN envoy said he hoped that the situation would end with dialogue, the acceptance of which was announced by the officials of our country.

Brahimi added: It is only natural that each side has its own principles, which it seeks to impose. He noted that he will discuss this, and speak of conditions later.

The UN envoy reiterated the need to see the cease-fire holding as soon as possible. He noted that he will continue with his contacts to lay the grounds for the resumption of dialogue between brothers.

In reply to a question on the moves that he intends to discuss to achieve an effective cease-fire, the UN envoy said that there are principles, and that the main principle to be upheld is that it is always preferable to resolve such issues between the concerned sides. If other issues are to be examined, then such issues can be discussed at the appropriate time.

The UN envoy was seen off at the airport by brother Ahmad Dayfallah al-'Uzayz, Foreign Ministry under secretary for political affairs; brother 'Abdallah al-Wahhabi, director of protocol at the Foreign Ministry; representatives of protocol at the Presidential Council; the ambassadors of Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, and Libya; brother 'Awni al-'Ani, resident UN representative in Sanaa; and Ambassador Muhammad Hadi 'Awad, head of the Arab Department at the Foreign Ministry.

Briefs Saudi Officials

LD1106133794 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1216 GMT 11 Jun 94

[Excerpts] Jeddah, 11 Jun—Yemeni sources here expected the arrival of the southern Yemeni official, Abu Bakr al-'Attas, to Jeddah to meet the UN envoy to Yemen, Lakhdar Brahimi, who arrived in Saudi Arabia late last night from Amman with a mission aimed at ending the current crisis in Yemen.

Diplomatic sources told KUNA that Brahimi would hold talks with Saudi officials here to acquaint them with the latest developments in Yemen, particularly after 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's welcome of a Saudi role to settle the Yemeni crisis completely. [passage omitted]

In contact with KUNA, Yemeni sources said that Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, prime minister of the Democratic Republic of Yemen, which was recently proclaimed, and its foreign affairs minister, 'Abdallah al-Asnaj, would arrive in Jeddah at a later time to start talks with the UN envoy, which would be completed in Mukkala if a real cease-fire agreement was reached.

It is worth mentioning that Saudi Arabia has so far not officially announced that it was hosting these talks. However, according to Yemeni sources, it is not unlikely that Saudi Arabia "would host these talks if al-'Attar and al-Asnaj arrived in the presence of a Gulf desire for immediate cease-fire."

Confers With YSP Member by Phone

EA1206135094 Aden Democratic Republic of Yemen Radio Network in Arabic 0330 GMT 12 Jun 94

[Text] Brother Salim Salih Muhammad, Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] Presidential Council member, talked by phone from his place of residence in London with brother Lakhdar Brahimi, envoy of Butrus Butrus-Ghali, UN secretary general, who is currently in Jeddah continuing his efforts to stop the fighting, prevent Yemeni bloodshed, and implement the Security Council's resolution.

During the contact, brother Salim Salih Muhammad explained the recent developments, Sanaa's refusal to abide by the cease-fire, and the imposition of a state of siege on Aden by threatening to cut the water supplies, hit the economic and civilian utilities and shell the popular quarters without discrimination, a matter which led to the killing of hundreds of women, children, and old men. He affirmed to him the importance of speeding up the implementation of the Security Council's resolution and sending international observers to supervise the ceasefire and start the talks, or take deterrent measures against the side which rejected these international resolutions.

Lakhdar Brahimi affirmed the importance of stopping the fighting and implementing the Security Council's resolutions immediately, and that he was about to meet

'Ali Salim al-Bid and the other leaders in order to enable him to submit his report to Butrus- Ghali, UN secretary general, who would in turn present it to the UN Security Council to take additional resolutions which would lead to the imposition of the state of stability and peace in Yemen and the rest of the region.

Visits South for Cease-Fire Talks

EA1206192794 Aden Democratic Republic of Yemen Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 12 Jun 94

[Excerpt] Lakhdar Brahimi, the envoy of the UN secretary general, arrived in al-Mukalla at 1800 today on his mission to establish the facts surrounding the war being fought in Yemen and with the objective of bringing about implementation of the UN Security Council cease-fire resolution. In a statement to the Yemeni News Agency, Aden, he said his presence here was to continue talks with the brother officials on the same issues as discussed in Sanaa. He went on to say: I believe that the sides concerned are those in the north and south of Yemen. What we have heard is that they all want a cease-fire, which is what we want and want to implement.

Brahimi stressed that first and foremost was the substantiation of the cease-fire. We shall be talking with the brothers about this matter; everything has to be talked about. He expressed regret over the violation of the cease-fire, saying he hoped it would finally be implemented. [passage omitted]

Economic Impact of North-South War Examined

NC1206073294 Paris AFP in English 0252 GMT 94

[Report by Nadim Kawash]

[Text] Abu Dhabi, June 12 (AFP)—Yemen looks set to emerge from its civil war with a badly-damaged infrastructure, a shattered army and the spectre of political uncertainty scaring away potential investors for some time to come.

Already one of the world's poorest countries, Yemen can ill afford the added strain on its struggling economy of a full-scale war between rival north and south leaders.

Airports, harbours, a key oil refinery, roads and water and power plants are reported to have sustained heavy damage in the five-week- old civil war put at billions of dollars by a southern leader.

The appointed foreign minister of the breakaway southern state of the Yemen Democratic Republic 'Abdallah al-Asnaj told AFP Yemen would be counting on regional and international aid to fund reconstruction.

"The war will have serious consequences on the economy. Losses are very large and surpass all estimates. They are in billions of dollars because the infrastructure and public utilities have been badly damaged," al-Asnaj told AFP during a visit to Abu Dhabi.

But any outside aid could prove to be at the expense of development promised when the former conservative North Yemen and the Marxist South were merged in May 1990.

"We hope Arab and international funds will extend aid to help us in rebuilding after the war.

"We will also use our own resources. But this will be at the expense of development and the aid will only aggravate our debt problems. In a nutshell, the economic situation will be horrible," he said.

Even before the war broke out on May 5, Yemen's economy was reeling under heavy debt, inflation, negative growth, unemployment and deficits in its budget and balance of payments.

The country's debt is estimated at seven to nine billion dollars and its budget deficit was projected at around 800 million dollars in 1993, nearly 83 percent of the revenues.

Inflation was as high as 35 percent in 1992, putting further pressure on the national currency the riyal.

Its current account suffered a 342 million dollars deficit in 1992 while exports remained far below imports, standing at 27 million dollars and 119 million dollars a month respectively in the first half of 1993.

Despite a steady increase in oil output peaking at its current 335,000 barrels per day (bpd) compared with 200,000 (bpd) in 1993, Yemen's Gross Domestic Product recorded negative growths of 2.5 and 3.9 percent in 1992 and 1991. No official figures on the economy were published in 1993.

"Yemen's economy had just started to stand on its feet with more oil exports and economic reforms. But after such damage to its vital facilities, it appears to be back to the scratch," a Western diplomat said.

The diplomat added that whatever the outcome of the power struggle between President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and his southern rival 'Ali Salim al-Bid "the political atmosphere will remain poisoned for a long time (...) this will naturally affect the flow of aid and investment."

Al-Asnaj said: "We will not be able to stand on our feet alone. We need help from our brothers. The task of reconstruction is not easy and economic difficulties could exacerbate social problems."

The country's economic problems were further worsened during the Gulf crisis when Saudi Arabia expelled more than 700,000 Yemenis in retaliation for Sanaa's perceived sympathy with the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in August 1990.

Saudi Arabia and other Gulf Arab states were the main aid donors to Yemen before they froze assistance following the invasion.

Netanyahu Praises Government on Jordanian Accords

TA1006110194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 10 Jun 94

[Text] Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu has congratulated the government on the agreements it signed with Jordan in Washington. Netanyahu told our correspondent Arye Golan that they constitute important progress and that he wishes the government success in advancing peace with Jordan. When the government functions properly, it should be congratulated, he said.

Editorial Upbeat on Relations With Jordan

TA1006150594 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 10 Jun 94 p B1

[Editorial: "A Jordanian Handshake"]

[Text] For the first time in the history of Israeli-Jordanian relations Jordan has agreed to host the bilateral talks in its territory. For the first time it is willing to host an official Israeli delegation for at international economic forum. These two developments are enough to indicate the change in Israeli-Jordanian relations over the last week. There are in addition, however, reports on a series of economic projects of great importance to both Jordan and Israel which are in an advanced stage of negotiations. Among these projects are the Red Sea-Dead Sea Canal Project; a joint park in the 'Arava; establishing a civilian tourism subcommittee; building a road from al-'Aqabah to Taba via Elat, and establishing a tripartite Israeli-Jordanian-Palestinian framework for dealing with banking and financial issues.

This assortment of issues indicates that Jordan views the peace process not merely in declarative terms, but as a means to advance and implement its vital interests. Jordan no longer regards itself as the guardian and representative of the Palestinian problem. From now on it will try to compete with the Palestinians over the benefits accruing from the peace process.

The Gaza-Jericho agreement undoubtedly facilitated the Washington talks this week. Jordan's concern lest it will lose economic strongholds such as the banks and the supremacy of the Jordanian dinar to the Palestinians also contributed to the success. These strongholds harbor a lot of political power which can influence the functioning of the Palestinian autonomy as well as Jordan's economy, which is at a dangerous low.

Israel, for its part, has always wanted to maintain normal neighborly relations with Jordan, and such relations have existed de facto. The open bridges policy inaugurated by Dayan, the generally calm border maintained by Jordan, and the secret meetings between Israeli leaders and King Husayn only strengthened the relations between the two countries. Israel and Jordan have both regarded each other as strategic partners for foiling the establishment of a Palestinian state.

Israel is interested both in the autonomy's success and in strengthening Jordan's status in the region. In fact, the two are mutually dependent. Without cooperation with Jordan the Palestinian economy will crumble and will become a dead weight on Israel's economy; without cooperation with the autonomy, on the other hand, the Jordanian economy might suffer deeper unemployment, a loss of income, and the rise of radical elements.

Now that the Palestinian problem has been detached from the negotiations with Jordan and has become an independent problem, negotiations with Jordan can become an easier affair. It is relatively easy to solve the border demarcation problem between Israel and Jordan, because this border does not constitute a strategic buffer as does the Golan Heights. Other controversial issues can be solved via reasonable negotiations. With a modicum of goodwill these negotiations will resemble negotiations between friendly countries.

It is still hard to assess whether Jordan has proceeded with Syria's blessing or despite its opposition. Syria has still not given up its efforts to delay the process until negotiations with it score significant progress. Until the agreements are signed, we should be cautious in our assessment of the process. There is no doubt, however, that the quick progress made in negotiations with Jordan could facilitate the negotiations with Syria and Israel's acceptance by the entire Arab world.

Commentator Decries Policy of Turning to Jordan

TA1206114494 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 12 Jun 94 p B1

[Commentary by Dan Margalit: "After the Revolution"]

[Text] The government logged a political achievement in its agreement with Jordan. Even the opposition did not find fault in it. If the prime minister's meeting with the Jordanian monarch gave birth to an agreement to conduct further negotiations in Elat and al-'Aqabah instead of Washington; and if there will now be deliberations on demarcation of borders and jointly combating terrorism, as well as the distribution of water resources, this will mark important progress. Even if in practice most of those components already exist, formalizing them in a joint, official, and signed document is significant.

Yitzhaq Rabin and Shim'on Peres, who were weaned on the Hashemite theory in Israeli foreign policy, remain loyal to it despite the historic breakthrough they made in the dialogue with the PLO. They feel they have achieved a great deal up to now, but they appear to be depending on King Husayn to reach another bilateral agreement with them, which would lead to full peace. If that is the case, they will be disappointed.

In November 1993, Peres returned from extensive discussions with King Husayn in Amman. They agreed on a far-reaching document. The king did not want to leave the ceremony to his brother, the crown prince. He insisted on including his signature on the agreement.

After that, Peres pursued him like a groom chasing after a reluctant bride, and repeatedly heard from the monarch that the wedding ceremony would be held "in the spring" and then "in the summer," and now the best we can hope for from these warm ties is the fall and autumn leaves.

Why do Rabin and Peres believe that Husayn cannot trick them a third time? Because there is a limit? Because one cannot go on cheating forever? There are people who really do not dare deceive and cheat, but there are leaders for whom the third time is easier than the first. Husayn, who is ailing and left yesterday for medical tests in the United States, is one of them.

The renewed clinging to Husayn is due to the political weariness of the prime minister and foreign minister. Historian Arnold Toynbee once explained that a leadership cannot carry out two revolutions. It is possible that the gambit with the PLO along the Oslo-Washington-Cairo axis was a revolution by Rabin and Peres, or by one of them, and that they do not have any more steam to continue on to other destinations. This fatigue also explains their tortuous and bewildering stands about the uncovering of the Jerusalem document following a thorough parliamentary investigation by Dan Meridor and Ben Begin.

Under these conditions, Rabin and Peres do not have the strength to race ahead to full autonomy as the stage before a permanent solution. It is easier for them to hope that the Palestinians will not manage to organize elections or uphold for long the (so far successful) Gaza-Jericho agreement. In fact, there is a new target date: By the 1996 Knesset elections, Rabin and Peres want to make do with the early empowerment stage on the West bank. That is much less ambitious than the year of strategic decisionmaking they had earmarked for 1994.

The alternative to quickened negotiations with the Palestinians is not pulling back to the granting of sewage, education, transportation, and tourism rights to the residents of Janin and Nabulus. Yasir 'Arafat received an undertaking to hold serious negotiations and Israel has an interest in fulfilling that promise. It would be wrong to treat subclauses, in themselves sound, as an adequate alternative.

Rabin and Peres are not advancing the negotiations with Hafiz al-Asad. True, that is difficult. Al-Asad came under constructive criticism in recent weeks. He is stubborn and archaic, and immersed in a long gone world. His guests found him worried that he will end up like Nicolae Ceaucescu, who started by opening a narrow skylight to a new gust of wind and was hurled away by a hurricane. For the first time, western leaders refer to al-Asad as an "idiot."

Al-Asad wants the entire Golan Heights, and is even including al-Hammah, which did not belong to Syria prior to 1967. He is demanding the demilitarization of the eastern Upper Galilee, which will return Tel Hay to the days of Yosef Trumpeldor in March 1920. His stubbornness over the time factor for the withdrawal and the security arrangements are annoying.

Patience has so far characterized the Israeli position in the negotiations and it seems that it is being replaced by desperation and preparations for a anemic scenario: to reach the 1996 general elections with early empowerment in the pocket and an advanced Israeli-Jordanian agreement.

That will not happen, and that cannot be all there is. If the government focuses only on those two important but secondary elements, Labor will move into the opposition benches. If the idea is to disrupt the political settlement, then Israel has better governments for the job.

King Husayn Invited To Pray in Jerusalem

TA1306070794 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 13 Jun 94 p 1

[Report by Moti Bassok]

[Text] Several weeks ago, former Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek invited Jordanian King Husayn to come to Jerusalem and pray at the Temple Mount mosques. The appeal to Husayn was made with the knowledge of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. So far, Kollek has not received an answer.

Kollek contacted Husayn through a third party associated with the former mayor and the king. The mediator made a special trip to Jordan to deliver the invitation. Kollek suggested that Husayn come to Jerusalem openly, aboard a special helicopter, and pray at the graves of his forefathers in the city. The climax of the visit was to have been festive prayers at the Temple Mount mosques. Kollek suggested that Husayn return to Jordan after the prayers, without meeting any Israeli officials. Kollek advised Rabin and Peres before making the proposal, and they expressed no opposition.

Kollek confirmed the details of this report yesterday. According to him, he has not yet received the king's reply, although a few weeks have passed since the invitation was given. In the interim, the king underwent ear surgery, and he is currently in the United States for medical treatment. It is not clear whether he intends to respond to the former mayor's offer.

It is not clear whether Kollek's offer to Husayn was made at his own initiative, as the former mayor of Jerusalem, or whether it was made at Rabin and Peres' request. In any event, the offer was meant to serve important Israeli interests, as well as obvious Jordanian interests, at this critical juncture for both parties. Had Husayn accepted the offer, he would have prayed publicly on Temple Mount, under extensive media coverage, before Yasir 'Arafat, and this would have lent support to his demand for involvement in the management of the Muslim holy sites in Jerusalem.

A Husayn visit at this time could help Israel resist the pressure for an 'Arafat visit to Temple Mount and help

weaken the Palestinian demand for control over East Jerusalem and the Muslim holy sites.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0500 GMT on 13 June reports that "Teddy Kollek expressed regret over the fact that his proposal to Jordan's King Husayn to visit Jerusalem and pray at the Temple Mount mosques before Yasir 'Arafat was leaked to the press." Kollek said "that so far, he has not received any reply from Jordan with regard to his proposal."]

Peace Now Leader Recounts Meeting With 'Arafat

TA1106110594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0705 GMT 11 Jun 94

[Telephone interview with Peace Now leader Tzali Reshef in Tunis, following his meeting with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat on 10 June, by Yoram Ronen—live]

[Text] [Ronen] 'Arafat will not be coming to Jericho next week. Why has he put off his arrival in the autonomy?

[Reshef] We neither asked him nor got an answer to that question. At the same time, 'Arafat and his men reiterated that they intend to come to Jericho within the next few weeks. In fact, we saw that the entire entourage has completed its preparations for its arrival in the land....

[Ronen, interrupting] Their land.

[Reshef] Our land, their land; the land both of us will have to share, as all of us realize at this point. I must say I encountered a very optimistic approach and a great deal of faith that as soon as they arrive things will work out, that their dialogue with their people and our people will be better. The atmosphere here is very encouraging for an Israeli. You expect to arrive at the headquarters—a quasi-military command—of an organization that fought you for many years, but you encounter an administrative system getting ready to deal with daily affairs as government ministries in our country do.

[Ronen] As you probably know, what worries Israelis is that 'Arafat and his men intend at a very early stage to try to bring the negotiations forward, including on the question of Jerusalem. Did you discern any such intentions in your meeting with 'Arafat?

[Reshef] The purpose of our meeting was to convey a rather tough message to 'Arafat concerning the reverberations in Israel of his remarks in Johannesburg and elsewhere, and to tell him that through such talk he is destroying the peace process with his own two hands. We told him that the faith of the Israeli people in the peace process and its willingness to make progress was largely up to him. I think his answer to us, one of total commitment to the peace process, was a kind of reaction to our message. We explicitly asked him about the battle for Jerusalem and when Jerusalem would be put on the negotiating table. 'Arafat categorically replied that all the administrative functions of the autonomy would be located in Jericho and that Orient House was going to keep a very low profile. He emphasized that he does not want to create a crisis over the issue of Orient House because there are no intentions to upgrade the profile of its activities. Quite the contrary, he said, Jericho is going to become the center.

[Ronen] Does 'Arafat plan to come to Jerusalem to pray at the al-Aqsa Mosque, as he has said several times?

[Reshef] He did not say anything of the sort, and we did not ask him about it. At the same time, the messages he conveyed throughout the conversation were ones of great faith that the process will advance. We also presented the difficulties expected in the interim arrangement, such as the continued existence of the settlements. He told us in English: Where there is a will there is a way [previous nine words in English]. In other words, he believes all the difficulties, such as the settlements and other issues, will be overcome. I have the feeling that the very fact that they are getting a piece of land to start administering and that they see some light at the end of the tunnel puts them in a much more optimistic mood and they see a rosier picture of the chances of pursuing the process than we do. In this respect, we found a very conciliatory man who very much wants to pursue the process. This far exceeded our expectations before the meeting.

[Ronen] Tzali Reshef in Tunis, thank you very much and have a safe journey home.

[Reshef] Thank you and see you soon.

Foreign Ministry Director on Palestinian Economy

TA1206094994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 12 Jun 94

[Telephone interview with Foreign Ministry Director General Uri Savir by Me'ir Einstein; place not given—live]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Einstein] I understand that the issue of Jerusalem and the location of the Palestinian economic authority were also discussed at the meeting of the donor countries in Paris. I believe the issue first came up in the document submitted by the PLO which stated that the economic authority would be established in Jerusalem; however, you managed to foil this intention and the economic authority will be set up in Jericho.

[Savir] We told the Palestinians that we were very interested in promoting the agreement between us. We said that a great deal of time had been wasted over words and that we were facing a test, a new reality, which would require patience since things do not change for the better within a day. We said that the time had come to improve conditions on the ground, and, at the present stage, the autonomous areas were in the Gaza Strip and Jericho. Second, we promised to cooperate in these efforts on condition that they complied with the framework of the

Declaration of Principles [DOP]. According to the DOP, all the autonomy institutions must be in the Gaza Strip or Jericho. This was stated by the Norwegian chairman at the meeting and also by Nabil Sha'th at the concluding news conference.

[Einstein] It was decided at the conference to transfer $42 million to the autonomy in order to meet expenses for the next three months. What will happen after that?

[Savir] Look, there are commitments to provide $720 million this year. The donor countries contributed $42 million for current expenses above the $130 million previously agreed upon. I think that at the beginning of the process, a greater emphasis was placed on investments because the various countries and their industries seek to profit from investing in joint projects by Israel and the Palestinian autonomy in the territories. I think that not enough thought was devoted to the need to give the autonomy a chance to get itself established and pay the first salaries before they can collect taxes and customs duties. Afterwards, the autonomy will have to start financing itself through taxes and its agreement with Israel. Also, investments in infrastructure will improve financial conditions. I believe that what is important is that the international community gave this agreement a very great chance for success. There are many areas of tension in the world but in this case there was a meeting of representatives from over 40 countries, led by the United States, the EC, Japan, the Scandinavian countries and others, who said that they wanted the autonomy and its relations with Israel to succeed, and the Palestinians will now have to prove that these funds will indeed be used for the development of the economy. It is important that everyone learn to equate peace with economic improvement. That is the really big test.

[Einstein] When will there be another conference of the donor countries?

[Savir] Approximately one month from now in Paris. This mechanism is very important not only to recruit contributions and future investments but also to monitor the auditing processes of the Palestinian economic institutions which are currently being established. At the conference, the Palestinians reported the establishment of their new economic body PECDAR [Palestinian Economic Committee on Development and Reconstruction]. The donor states insist on knowing where the money is going and what the autonomy's budget is. They are working closely with the World Bank and these issues will be examined periodically and the Palestinians realize that they had better cooperate in these processes. We should also help, because ultimately the real test lies in bringing about an economic improvement that leads to greater stability and security.

Following the Israeli withdrawal and the PLO's assumption of control in the area, the Palestinian residents will want to see their lives improve. The international community will want to examine these processes on a regular basis, at least at the beginning. The atmosphere at the talks was very good. The Palestinian delegation told us that a great deal of time had recently been wasted on various statements and that we must continue implementing and promoting the DOP in the field and get back on track with regard to establishing an entirely new relationship between the Palestinians and Israel. [passage omitted]

Cabinet Discusses PLO in Jerusalem, 'Arafat Arrival

TA1206112494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 12 Jun 94

[Excerpt] At today's weekly cabinet session, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin reiterated that special steps would be taken to prevent the PLO from establishing governing institutions in Jerusalem. Such activities include preparations for PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's arrival in the territories. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports:

[Begin recording] [Raz] The cabinet held a routine meeting today, contrary to recent sessions which were called urgently to deal with political crises such as housing shortages and the Kupat Holim sick fund debt. The focus of today's session was on Jerusalem. This, at least, was the impression given by Economy and Planning Minister Shim'on Shetrit.

[Shetrit] It is conspicuously evident to us that clear steps will be necessary to prevent the establishment of PLO political institutions of a governing nature, as opposed to the professional and non-profit institutions which existed in the past.

[Raz] What about a visit to Jerusalem by 'Arafat?

[Shetrit] Such a visit to Jerusalem was not discussed today, and the prevailing assessment is that it will not take place.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1000 GMT on 12 June adds that "the ministers were briefed by security officials on political developments and the situation in the territories and the Palestinian autonomous areas. The cabinet still does not know the date of 'Arafat's planned visit to the Gaza Strip and Jericho." IDF radio notes that "the ministers were also briefed on developments on the Jordanian track, and the ministers expressed the assessment that despite all their fuss, the Syrians had been informed in advance."

[In a recorded passage, Minister Shim'on Shetrit says: "We received the impression that except for some lip service, there is no real Syrian opposition. This is a comprehensive process which pertains to the entire Middle East, and Jordan realized almost at the last minute that it could miss the train. It is good that Jordan recognized this fact, and the way it is participating in the process is very encouraging."]

[Raz] Here is what Agriculture Minister Ya'aqov Tzur had to say.

[Tzur] In my opinion, police activity is showing good signs in the field. I personally drove through Jericho several days ago and I must say that seeing a Palestinian police base in what used to be the Hanan camp and witnessing the joint patrols and the quiet in the town indicate a good potential. Therefore, as I understand things, the sooner 'Arafat arrives the better for the pushing of the financing of economic activity. Let us hope that 'Arafat arrives in the Gaza Strip and Jericho not just to visit but in order to stay.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1000 GMT on 12 June also reports that the cabinet discussed steps to prevent the establishment of Palestinian governing institutions in Jerusalem. In a recorded passage Agriculture Minister Zur says: "I think that the prime minister's unequivocal statements on this matter deterred the Palestinians from making statements and adopting positions which contravened the agreement."]

[Raz] Minister Tzur definitely sounded optimistic. The assessment is that 'Arafat will prefer to fly between the Gaza Strip and Jericho via helicopter. The cabinet also prefers this option which is much easier from the security standpoint. [passage omitted]

Woman Killed by IDF During Ramallah Riots

TA1106132394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 11 Jun 94

[Text] Siham 'Asawati, a 37-year-old resident of Ramallah, was killed this morning by shots fired by IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers who were dispersing rioters in the center of the town. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the soldiers were dispersing stone throwers and rioters by shooting rubber bullets and using tear gas. The woman was seriously wounded in the head by a rubber bullet and taken to a Ramallah hospital, where she died of her wounds.

Abu-Nidal Group Member Claims Lockerbie Responsibility

NC1306105594 Paris AFP in English 1048 GMT 13 Jun 94

[Text] Beirut, June 13 (AFP)—A member of Abu Nidal's radical Palestinian group Fatah Revolutionary Council claimed here on Monday responsibility for bombing a US airliner over Lockerbie, Scotland, in December 1988, which killed 270 people.

Yusuf Sha'ban, 29, a suspect in the murder case of a Jordanian diplomat, told a Lebanese court he had placed the bomb that ripped through a Pan Am plane packed with Christmas travellers.

Al-Hariri Rejects Separate Peace With Israel

NC1106161194 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 11 Jun 94

[Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri emphasized in Sidon this afternoon that the continuing Israeli aggression against Lebanon's territory, sovereignty, and dignity, whether involving villages, individuals, or groups, will not force Lebanon to conclude a separate peace deal with Israel or even to discuss it. They will not succeed in putting on a collision course the logic of the state and the logic of the honest, rational, and objective resistance, which complements the work of the state for liberation by its steadfastness, he added.

The prime minister added that we will not give Israel the satisfaction of seeing any crack in the unity of the Lebanese, who on the contrary are tending toward more strength, cohesion, and firmness. Prime Minister al-Hariri reiterated that Lebanon joined the negotiations in collaboration and consultation with Syria and with a well-known objective—namely, to liberate every inch in the south, the Western al-Biqa', and the Golan.

Prime Minister al-Hariri made these remarks after inaugurating the municipality offices in Sidon.

Al-Hariri Holds Talks in Damascus, Departs

NC1206170494 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 12 Jun 94

[Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri went to the Syrian capital at noon today, where he had talks with Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam regarding current domestic, regional, and international affairs. During his brief visit to Damascus, al-Hariri held talks with other senior Syrian officials in the framework of cooperation and coordination between the two countries.

Al-Hariri and Syrian officials discussed the peace process, Israel's continued attacks on Lebanon, and the signing of a Jordanian-Israeli agreement.

Just before he left Damascus tonight, al-Hariri reiterated Lebanon's call for Israel's full withdrawal from Lebanon. He said that the Lebanese Government wishes to promote stability and security on one hand and construction and development on the other.

The prime minister said that Lebanon will continue to hold consultations with Syria. The two countries, he added, seek a just and lasting peace in the region.

Al-Hariri Receives Iranian Foreign Ministry Adviser

PM0906144094 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 9 Jun 94 p 2

[Text] Beirut, AL-HAYAH—Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri yesterday received Mohammad Kazem Khonsari, the Iranian foreign minister's adviser and head of the Middle East and North Africa Department, at the head of a diplomatic delegation accompanied by Iranian Ambassador to Lebanon Hamayon 'Alizadeh.

Khonsari, who earlier visited President Ilyas al-Hirawi, Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri, Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz, and some Islamic spiritual leaders, said after the meeting: "I conveyed to his excellency condolences for the martyrs who died in the latest savage Zionist aggression against Lebanon. We then discussed regional and international issues as well as bilateral relations which we agreed to enhance and strengthen with joint cooperation in all fields."

He added: "We discussed developments in the region, especially the repeated attacks on Lebanon by the Zionist enemy. There was identity of views and we agreed that the Zionist enemy cannot influence the Lebanese policy with attacks, threats, and troublemaking, nor can it affect the Lebanese people's resistance which is fully supported by the Lebanese Government." He also said that "if anything, all the (Israeli) attacks and threats increase the people's and government's unity and solidarity against the Zionist enemy. We are with the resistance which is a legitimate right of the Lebanese people and which has the government's support."

On the rumor that some Iranians were among the victims of the Israeli raid on a Hizballah position in 'Ayn Kawkab east of Ba'labakk, Khonsari said: "That is not the case at all. This is the first time we have heard such talk."

Asked if he had any information about the Iranian diplomats who were kidnapped in Lebanon in 1982, he replied: "I have no information on that. We expect the Lebanese Government to explore the fate of these hostages as it deems fit, particularly as they were diplomats kidnapped on this territory. We have no accurate knowledge. The Iranian people, the Iranian Government, and the families of those brothers all always await positive news about them and the necessary measures to free them."

On Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's assertion that the four kidnapped people are in Israel, Khonsari said that "one possibility is that they are alive and held prisoner by the Zionist enemy."

He said that Iran is ready "for comprehensive cooperation in all fields desired by Lebanon."

Meanwhile, a delegation from the International Political Studies Center attached to the Iranian Foreign Ministry headed by Khadem Haqiqat has visited the Lebanese University and discussed with its president, Dr. As'ad Diyab, the possibility of direct scientific dialogue between the people concerned. The delegation also visited the Arab Information Center.

Elsewhere, Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz said yesterday that the temporary truce between Lebanon and Israel does not mean that the latter will stop its aggressions against Lebanon. He added that "the Lebanese people's unity worries Israel and the latter has always tried to drive a wedge between the Lebanese state and the resistance but we will not fall into that trap."

Editors' doyen Milhim Karam quoted him as saying that Iranian Envoy Khonsari's visit to Lebanon "has been useful and has somewhat contributed to the enhancement of trust between the state and the resistance. Iran is known to have good relations with the Lebanese resistance and that is why it has used that weight to effectively contribute to the consolidation of the Lebanese entity on foundations that cannot collapse."

Buwayz believes that the United States "is not playing the role required of it as a mediator, conference sponsor, and effective element in the Madrid conference and the entire peace process. It is just being a postman but that is not its role. It should be playing an effective part." He expressed the hope that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher "would bring clear U.S. proposals."

He said that he "did not agree with those calling for withdrawal from the negotiations because withdrawal would play into Israeli hands and we will not do it." He praised the work and effective presence of the Lebanese Army in the south, adding that "we are not stepping up the Army's presence for fear of an Israeli strike but the Army has been there for two years and that has moral, practical, and military significance."

Armenian Foreign Minister Inaugurates Embassy

NC1206063294 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 12 Jun 94

[Text] Armenian Foreign Minister Vahan Papazyan arrived in Beirut at 2100 yesterday at the head of a Foreign Ministry delegation on a four-day official visit to Lebanon.

The Armenian foreign minister will inaugurate the Armenian Embassy at an opening ceremony in Beirut tomorrow afternoon. Minister Papazyan will meet with President Ilyas al-Hirawi, Chamber Speaker Nabih Birri, Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri, Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz, and several ranking officials. The talks will deal with the current situation in Lebanon and relations between Armenia and Lebanon.

Birri Renews Call for Return of General 'Awn

NC1306125094 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 13 Jun 94

[Report by Christian Usi in the Chamber of Deputies in Beirut]

[Excerpt] Editors Doyen Milhim Karam has cited Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri as saying that the government will be better protected and more prestigious and dignified if it lifts all restrictions on the audio and visual media, provided that these media are really Lebanese. Birri stressed to the editors' doyen that he is one of the advocates of organized opposition. He renewed his call for General Michel 'Awn to return to Lebanon. If 'Awn needs protection, Birri was quoted as saying, I can guarantee him wider and better protection than that he is now receiving in his place of residence. Birri stressed that General 'Awn was the one who asked for political asylum in France, and said Lebanon is prepared to protect him to practice all his activities in the country. [passage omitted]

Judge Orders Trial of Ja'ja', Others in Church Bombing

NC1306084394 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0800 GMT 13 Jun 94

[Text] The judicial official investigating the bombing of Sayyidat al-Najat Church in Zuq Mikha'il, Magistrate Joseph Furayhah, has issued an indictment against Samir Ja'ja' [leader of the dissolved Lebanese Forces Party]; Antonios Ilyas Ilyas, alias Tony 'Ubayd; Rushdi Ra'd, alias Nabil Munassa; Jean Yusuf Shahin; alias Asad; Jiryis Tawfiq al-Khuri; retired Major Fu'ad Malik; Paul al-Fahl; and Rafiq al-Fahl under the criminal code, which stipulates certain penalties, including the death penalty.

Magistrate Furayhah has referred the entire dossier to the Appeals Public Prosecutor, Magistrate Munif 'Uwaydat, for further referral to the Judicial Council so that the suspects may be tried according to the indictment.

Three of the suspects are already in custody; Samir Ja'ja', Fu'ad Malik, and Jiryis al-Khuri. Subpoenas in absentia have been issued against the others, who are fugitives.

Accused Said Linked to Israel

NC1306121094 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 13 Jun 94

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The indictment against Samir Ja'ja' and others contains the results of the interrogations of the detainees and the information available to the competent security and judicial authorities. It reveals that many of the accused have received training in Israel and that they had links with Israeli intelligence. The interrogations also showed that some of them are accomplices in other crimes, such as the assassinations of Dani Sham'un and Dr. Ilyas al-Zayik and the attempted

murder of ministers Elie Hubayqah and Sulayman Franjiyah. The indictment points out that the accused possessed forged passports and travelled between Cyprus, Juniyah [port in Lebanon], and Israel. It also stresses that the accused received huge amounts of money for implementing their tasks at the direct orders of Ja'ja'.

SLA, IDF Respond to 'Terrorist' Shelling

TA1206074894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 12 Jun 94

[Text] Sagger missiles, as well as RPG and mortar fire were directed last night at SLA [South Lebanese Army] outposts in the Bra'shit and Bayt Yahun areas of the security zone's western sector.

Our correspondent in the north Yo'av Aviv reports that the fire was directed at an outpost near the Bayt Yahun passage in the northern part of the security zone. SLA and IDF [Israel Defense Forces] artillery retaliated by returning fire and shelling terrorist targets in the area.

Al-Tufayli on Syrian Role, Ron Arad's Fate

NC1006195894 Beirut AL-DIYAR in Arabic 30 May 94 p 7

[Interview with former Hizballah Secretary General Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli by Nisrin Nasir-al-Din and Zaynah Ma'luli; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [AL-DIYAR] Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli, how are you? What role are you playing?

[Al-Tufayli] As a citizen of this country, I have a right to express my opinion. I like our clear rights to be respected. Acting on this premise, I don't believe in imposed regimes. The al-Ta'if Accord is a formula for a regime on which the Lebanese people were not consulted. Therefore, I reject this regime. Accordingly, anything that stems from this regime is illegitimate because the Lebanese people have not decided on it. Therefore, I am an opponent of the regime.

Furthermore, I don't believe anyone has the right to reconcile with the Zionist entity, which is an oppressor and usurper. The Lebanese regime is wrong in trying to reconcile with the Zionist enemy. [passage omitted]

[AL-DIYAR] What are your specific differences with the Lebanese regime?

[Al-Tufayli] I oppose the regime's many executive and procedural actions. I cannot accept a regime that does not stem from the will of the Lebanese or a majority of them. A referendum must be held on any formula proposed to the people. If the people accept this formula, then they will be responsible for their decision.

The Chamber of Deputies—which was appointed or elected—was elected on the basis of a formula which the people did not approve. The formula determined the Chamber, the Chamber did not devise the formula. A formula which is not presented to the people is not respected, and must not be respected by anyone.

[AL-DIYAR] Does this mean you are not pleased with the Chamber of Deputies?

[Al-Tufayli] The nature of Lebanese officials is essentially bad. This is very regrettable. I am not revealing something new. The officials in Lebanon, regardless of their positions, do not care about the Lebanese people's interests and views. All Lebanese officials are interested in is pleasing the party in power. For example, in the past the French had the power and Lebanese officials were anxious to know whether the French were pleased with them. Today the same thing is happening with the Syrian brothers. If the Syrians are pleased, there is no problem even if the Lebanese people curse these officials. This is not the work of honest officials. These officials are irresponsible.

Hypocrisy is the hallmark of past and current Lebanese officials. With such a mentality, we cannot say the people govern in Lebanon. The people do not govern at all. From a reading of the situation, we emerge with the conclusion that the majority of the people are not pleased with the formula or with the officials. If some of them are pleased, it is for personal reasons or out of fear. [passage omitted]

[AL-DIYAR] You have spoken about the Syrian role. What about the Iranian role in Lebanon?

[Al-Tufayli] The Iranian role is not political. Regardless of their abilities or inabilities, the Iranians have not interfered in political affairs. The Iranians have two roles. The first role is to support the resistance, transfer military expertise to it, and back it financially so it can buy weapons and other things. The second role is in helping the people dig water wells and rebuild destroyed houses, assisting the poor, and other social activities. That is all what they have been doing.

[AL-DIYAR] But they have interfered on some issues?

[Al-Tufayli] I don't believe the Syrians consult the Iranians. The decision is ultimately a Syrian one. The work the Syrians are doing in Lebanon is Syria's responsibility even if others consult it.

[AL-DIYAR] How are your relations with the Syrians and Iranians?

[Al-Tufayli] Good; there are no problems.

[AL-DIYAR] Are there contacts?

[Al-Tufayli] Contacts are held according to need. I am usually frank with the Syrians and Iranians. They know this. Therefore, the relations are stable and there are no problems.

[AL-DIYAR] How are your relations with Hizballah and what are the points of disagreement with it?

[Al-Tufayli] In fact, there were two viewpoints regarding the [parliamentary] elections. I don't like to participate in activities I don't believe in. Since I did not believe in the formula adopted for the elections, I told my brothers: I will not join in this political venture. However, I am at your service in other matters. [passage omitted]

[AL-DIYAR] What information does al-Hajj al-Dirani have on pilot Ron Arad?

[Al-Tufayli] In my capacity as a former Hizballah secretary general, I know details about Hizballah. Therefore, I can say that Ron Arad is not being held by Hizballah or the Iranians. The proof is that at some point in the past Hizballah and the Iranians carried out a serious search for Arad. This means he is not being held by them.

[AL-DIYAR] Can we identify the party that might be holding Arad?

[Al-Tufayli] Some people say the Syrians are holding him. However, the Syrians have not only denied this, they have also carried out a search for him. Therefore, it is probable that Arad died or was killed. Arad disappeared about the time of the aggression against Maydun. For example, some of his guards might have reacted and killed him in a moment of anger. There is no proof of this; I am just trying to explain the riddle. If he had returned to Palestine, they would have announced this. No one in Palestine has claimed that he is alive or dead. There is no reason for anyone to hide him. Therefore, there is a high probability that he died or was killed. [passage omitted]

Hizballah Discord Reported; al-Tufayli Revival Seen

NC1006091494 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 6 Jun 93 p 8

[Text] The dispute between Hizballah Secretary General Hasan Nasrallah and Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has intensified after Nasrallah backed the publication of a book entitled *Observations on Sayyid Fadlallah's Method.*The dispute has grown to include their entourages and loyalists. Asked about this issue, Fadlallah declared: "I do not trust any of Hizballah's leaders... without exception."

A dispute has likewise surfaced between Nasrallah and Hizballah Consultative Council member Shaykh Muhammad Yazbik, who is also director of Hizballah's religious school in Ba'labakk. Nasrallah has been giving cover to Shaykh Yazbik's rivals. One sign of the dispute was Nasrallah's insistence on employing Shaykh As'ad Balluq at the school. Shaykh Yazbik insisted on expelling Balluq.

Nasrallah realizes that he has lost all his religious credentials and his credibility inside Hizballah and is giving serious thought to his future after he leaves the secretary general's post. He has established and will be director of the Islamic Institute for Education, which supervises the Imam Mahdi schools in several Lebanese areas. It should be noted that the funds that Nasrallah is spending on this institution are actually part of Hizballah's budget. He urges Hizballah members to be economical and then diverts the party's funds to expand his institution. Nasrallah refuses to employ any one in the institution who is not blindly loyal and obedient to him.

Observers note that military operations carried out by the Islamic Resistance have recently been few and feeble. The reason is the secretary general's appropriation of funds for his own institution. He is also using Hizballah media to make publicity for the Imam Mahdi schools.

[A brief report on page 9 of the same issue of AL-SHIRA' reads: "Recent organizational changes in Hizballah indicate that former party secretary general Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli will regain his influence over Hizballah's decisionmaking process."]

[AL-SHIRA' also reports on page 10: "The Zionist enemy's criminal abduction of the Believers Resistance official Mustafa al-Dirani from his house in Qasr Naba provided Hizballah Secretary General Hasan Nasrallah with an opportunity to make a grand entrance into al-Biqa' following recent negative attitudes and resentment against him by area residents and party members. Some of his few supporters in the area sought to invent occasions for him to attend to give the impression that he is still strong in al-Biqa'. The results were disappointing. During the al-Ghadir Day poetry festival in Marjat Ra's al-'Ayn in Ba'labakk, Nasrallah's loyalists did all they could to mobilize a large party turnout but the area's ulema boycotted the festival and only 18 out of 100 al-Biqa' scholars attended. Hizballah Consultative Council member Shaykh Muhammad Yazbik was also absent."]

Hizballah Reportedly Tries To Kidnap German in al-Biqa'

NC1106133694 Paris AFP in English 1209 GMT 11 Jun 94

[Text] Ba'labakk, Lebanon, June 11 (AFP)—Two members of the Iranian-backed Hizballah tried to kidnap a German woman historian in the Syrian-controlled al-Biqa' Valley on Saturday, the woman and witnesses said.

"It was a bad 10 minutes," Nepta Anngret, 45, a historian from Berlin's museum of ethnography, told AFP.

She was on her way from her hotel in Ba'labakk to the famous Roman ruins of this ancient al-Biqa' Valley town when two young men approached her and said: "Hizballah, follow us."

"They were very young guys. One was around 16 and the other 18," Anngret said.

"I refused to follow them so one of the youths grabbed my arm and tried to drag me away. Passersby intervened and escorted me back to the Palmyra (hotel) but one of the guys followed me there," she said.

She said the other young man drove away in a car but quickly returned to the hotel to get his friend.

Hotel staff and witnesses confirmed the kidnapping attempt.

Anngret has been staying at the Palmyra Hotel for a week to carry out research at the Roman temples of Ba'labakk.

"I've been in Lebanon for a month. People here are very nice and I plan on continuing my research before packing up in 10 days time," she said, stressing that the incident had shaken her up but not frightened her.

It was the first reported kidnapping attempt of a Westerner since the last Western hostage was released in 1991 following a wave of abductions during the Lebanese civil war.

Hizballah militants seized six Lebanese men and a retired Syrian soldier from the Ba'labakk region Wednesday but freed them the next morning after the Syrian military command in the al-Biqa' threatened to arrest Hizballah militants.

The seven were abducted after some of them were seen taking photographs outside the home of the former Hizballah secretary general al-Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli.

The Iranian-backed guerrillas have been on alert since June 2 when Israeli warplanes killed 32 guerrilla trainees on a base near Ba'labakk.

Hizballah Plans 'Major' Operation To Avenge Air Raid

NC1106134394 Paris AFP in English 1242 GMT 11 Jun 94

[Text] Tyre, Lebanon, June 11 (AFP)—The Iranian-backed Hizballah is planning a major anti-Israeli operation to avenge 32 trainees killed in an Israeli air raid on June 2, one of its leaders warned Saturday.

"We are preparing an operation that will surprise the world," al-Hajj Hasan Huballah told AFP.

Israel devastated a Hizballah training base in the Syrian-controlled al-Biqa' Valley of eastern Lebanon on June 2, killing 32 trainees and prompting retaliatory rocket attacks.

Huballah said the Katyusha rockets, which fell harmlessly on northern Israel, were not a riposte.

He expected further Israeli military operations and "assassinations" of Hizballah leaders as part of a US campaign to crush opposition to Arab-Israeli peace talks.

"We're passing through a very dangerous phase.

"There is an American plot aimed at liquidating all those who oppose the Middle East peace process and Israel has been charged with carrying it out," Huballah said.

But Hizballah leaders had taken strict measures to preempt any attack. "Senior leaders have moved out of their homes, changed cars and their daily routine," he said.

The air raid came less than two weeks after Israeli airborne commandos kidnapped Mustafa al-Dirani, a Muslim guerrilla chief with close links to Hizballah, from his home in the al-Biqa'.

Israel hopes al-Dirani will supply key information on missing Israeli airman Ron Arad whose plane was shot down over south Lebanon in 1986.

Lebanon branded the abduction and the air raid acts of piracy and protested to the United Nations. It also vowed not to disarm Hizballah until Israel dismantled its self-declared "security zone" in south Lebanon.

The Arabic-language daily AL-HAYAH, quoting Lebanese officials, reported Saturday that the United States submitted an Israeli warning to the Lebanese authorities.

Israel would attack Lebanon if Hizballah carried out its threat to launch suicide-operations against Israeli interests around the world, according to the report.

Nasrallah Pledges Continued Resistance

NC1306072994 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 13 Jun 94

[Text] Hizballah Secretary General Hasan Nasrallah has pledged to continue the jihad and resistance and not to capitulate regardless of Israeli reactions.

He called for putting internal differences aside at this stage, adding that civic peace must be protected. He said: We do not advocate any form of indigenous security and we are not the security alternative for anyone.

TV Station Ordered to Stop Transmitting

NC1106195994 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 11 Jun 94

[Text] The General Directorate of Public Security decided tonight to stop the Future Television station's transmission due to violations of the cabinet decision of 23 March 1994, which banned the audio and visual media from transmitting direct or indirect political news and programs.

Future Television transmitted on its news program "Tonight's World" a report on the inauguration of the Sidon municipality building. The report included the political speech delivered by Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri, thus violating the cabinet decision on the transmission of political news.

The public security organ contacted the station and asked it to stop transmission. Future Television stopped its transmissions at 2030 today [1730 GMT] in obedience to this decision.

U.S. Urged To 'Persuade' Israel To Withdraw From Golan

PM1006123994 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 10 Jun 94 p 6

[Report by Salwa al-Ustuwani: "Damascus: Washington's Problem in the Middle East Is With Itself First and Israel Second"]

[Text] Damascus—Syria said yesterday that the United States' problem in the Middle East lies with itself first and Israel second. And if the United States is playing its role as a full partner, if it really is committed to the principles of the peace process, it should persuade Israel of these principles. In practice it should find no difficulty in persuading Israel. Because by virtue of its relationship with Israel and by virtue of the nature of that relationship it is capable of making Israel's rulers respect international legitimacy and comply with the requirements of a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

A Syrian official said that the United States has precedents in this connection. After the tripartite aggression in 1956 it was able to force Israel to relinquish Sinai one week after the Knesset decision. Because then-U.S. President Dwight Eisenhower took an influential position that persuaded Israel. If U.S. President Bill Clinton were willing to do the same today with regard to the Golan, the peace process would move in the required direction. But Dennis Ross, U.S. coordinator for the peace process, has become a promoter of concessions to those violating international legitimacy—which is not in line with the interests of peace or with the characteristics of the full partner that the United States claims to be.

The official said that Syria is still and will remain committed to the peace process and its foundations. All the evidence proves that it is seeking peace. This is a Syrian strategy, not a diplomatic game or a transient propaganda campaign. It will continue to cooperate with the United States as long as the United States continues to respect the basis of the peace process and the resolutions of international legitimacy. The problem is still not with Syria but with Israel, the U.S. position on Israel, and the lack of a serious, influential, fair, and responsible role. The official added that Israeli logic, which differs from any other logic, will push the Middle East region into a new whirlpool of escalation, tension, wars, and bloodshed.

On U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit to the region, the official said that the problem lies not in whether Christopher should come to the region or not, but rather in whether the United States demonstrates commitment to the full role it has chosen for itself. This role was not a Syrian invention or demand; it was a U.S. idea.

Asked whether Syria will agree to receive Christopher during the tour now in preparation, the official said: We are always willing to acquaint ourselves with whatever new baggage Christopher may be carrying, because we are seeking to achieve a real peace. If Christopher carries with him Israeli proposals that achieve the basic requirements of the peace process, there is no problem in joining the negotiations. However, we urge the United States to commit itself and adhere to the UN resolutions and the principles of international legitimacy. In this context we do not accept that there should be any room for any neutral approach or for acting merely as a mailman: Either Washington is with international legitimacy, or it is not. He added that the problem is not between Syria and the United States; the problem is with the Israeli position. And Syria is looking forward to hearing the Israeli proposals that Christopher might carry with him during his announced tour. These proposals should fall within a new framework so that the peace process can advance. He said that Syria has not yet been informed of the date of Christopher's arrival in the region. The official pointed to the existing full coordination between Syria and Lebanon, saying that the two tracks will not diverge, that the efforts being made to separate the two tracks from one another will fail; and that the Lebanese resistance will continue to fight until the land has been liberated.

Commentary: 'No Progress' After Christopher Contacts

JN1006153494 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 10 Jun 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Israel continues to tighten its iron grip on south Lebanon and commit further acts of aggression on the area's defenseless villages and towns and issue ever more serious threats with a view to blackmailing Lebanon and putting pressure on Syria. On the other hand, Israeli officials have been hinting at progress in the talks with Syria and adverse consequences for those who may fall behind in the peace process. Israel's strategy seems to be that the Arabs must compete with each other to conclude peace. By such competition, the Israeli argument goes, the Arabs are likely to forgo some, if not the substance, of their rights, as happened with the Palestinian side. By thus falling into the trap one by one, the Arabs would find they had been sucked into lame and lopsided settlements that are nothing like the kind of true, universal peace craved by the Arab masses.

To advance that end, Israel goes out of its way to give the impression that the talks with Syria have made substantial headway, and that the upcoming tour of Warren Christopher will see a qualitative change, when in fact no progress to speak of has been made and in his previous tours Christopher did not raise any ideas promoting the implementation of UN Security Council resolutions. Christopher has thus far confined himself to the role of mailman. All the clamor whipped up by Israel is designed to entice the Arab parties into the trap of separate and unfair settlements and negate the underlying foundations of the Madrid conference.

From day one of the peace process, Syria has warned against such Israeli tactics and repeatedly pressed home to the Arabs the need to coordinate their moves and stick to the bases of a just and comprehensive peace so that all the Arab parties negotiate from a position of strength and guard against a forfeiture of their rights. Syria has often enough emphasized that Arab coordination ranks high on its agenda, and that it will never relinquish any of the Arab rights or a grain of Arab soil. Syria regards the Middle East conflict and the peace process from a pan-Arab perspective. The kind of peace settlement we want is one that meets Arab rights and aspirations and removes Israeli occupation from all Arab territory. Beyond that, Syria has made it plain that Warren Christopher's contacts have yet to register any progress and that a yawning gap separates the Syrian and Israeli positions. Syria has also made it clear that it adheres to all the principles agreed upon at the conferences of the Arab foreign ministers. Syria has let it be known that Israel does not want peace and that its sinful and savage acts of aggression against Lebanon are calculated extortion of the Lebanese Government and an attempt sour Syrian-Lebanese relations and drag Lebanon into a separate deal.

It is indeed laughable and preposterous that Uri Lubrani should appoint himself as a trustee over Lebanon and shed tears over Lebanon's sovereignty. Isn't it Israel that is occupying Lebanese territory and killing Lebanese civilians and perpetrating daily acts of devastating aggression? Lubrani has stated unequivocally that only once it severs its ties with Syria and sets up ties with Israel at the expense of Syria, can Lebanon be a sovereign country. Lubrani ignores the catastrophes that have hit the Lebanese at the hands of Israel and the fact that if it were not for Syria and its firm stand against the Zionist partitionist scheme, Lebanon would have been little more than limbs stinking with the odor of death, devastation, and fire.

Lebanon has recuperated and regained its unity and the Zionist scenario of partition has collapsed, as have all Israel's plans. The Tel Aviv rulers, nonetheless, will not admit defeat. They seem to think that they may keep playing the same dirty trick of blackmailing Lebanon and pressuring Syria and splitting Arab ranks. They have never been interested in a true and decent peace in the Middle East. They do not look beyond lame settlements that perpetuate occupation and give them a free hand to control the region's resources. It is enough to look at the Palestinian arena to understand what Israel is after.

The Israeli officials had been wooing the Palestinians away from the glare of publicity, and no sooner had they lured them into the Oslo and Cairo agreements than they uncovered their expansionist, aggressive designs; namely to slice off Jerusalem and important sections of the West Bank. They were even at pains to humiliate the Palestinians. What Syria had warned would happen materialized, and the chances are we are in for more of the same if the Arab parties fail to adhere to the foundations of peace and coordinate their moves. Hardly a day passes without the Israelis urging separate and secret talks to promote the same lame agreements that they know will not achieve peace. Peace is not a cheap deal; it is a package deal grounded in right, justice, and international law. Peace cannot take root in the Middle East short of a fair and universal settlement providing for a total Israeli pullout from the occupied Arab territories. That has been and will continue to be Syria's position.

'Circumstances' 'Not Suitable' for Meeting With Jordan

JN1106094594 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0915 GMT 11 Jun 94

[Text] The political editor of the SYRIAN ARAB NEWS AGENCY has learned that the meeting of the Joint Syrian-Jordanian Higher Committee, which was scheduled for today, 11 June, was postponed because both the date and circumstances are not suitable for the Syrian side.

Saudi Foreign Minister Visits, Meets With al-Asad

JN1206111494 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1015 GMT 12 Jun 94

[Text] At 1245 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'.

His Highness Prince al-Faysal arrived in Damascus at noon today. He was received at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', a number of Foreign Ministry officials, the Saudi ambassador in Damascus, and the Embassy staff.

In a statement to a SANA correspondent, Prince al-Faysal said: I am bringing a message from the custodian of the two holy mosques to his brother His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad on two important topics: Bilateral relations and continuous consultations on these relations; and the situation in our Arab region.

Prince al-Faysal added: Within this framework, consultations between both countries' leaders are continuous. The custodian of the two holy mosques is eager to inform President al-Asad of his ideas at all stages.

Further on al-Asad Meeting

JN1206162694 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 12 Jun 94

[Text] At 1245 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'.

Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal conveyed a message to President al-Asad from Saudi King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, dealing with the situation in the region.

Talks dealt with the situation in the area, Arab problems, and ways of tackling them on the basis of general Arab interests.

Describes Talks as 'Excellent'

LD1306085594 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2215 GMT 12 Jun 94

[Text] Damascus, 12 Jun—His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the minister of foreign affairs, said that he conveyed a message from Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-Aziz to President Hafiz al-Asad of the Syrian Arab Republic.

His Highness said: "President al-Asad gave me a message in reply within the framework of the continuous coordination, consultation and assessment of the situation in the region." His highness the foreign minister said this in an exclusive statement to the Syrian news agency after his meeting with the Syrian president today.

He described his talks with President Hafiz al-Asad as excellent. He stressed the need to end the fighting in Yemen, and his highness said that "war cannot be an instrument for cooperation between Arab societies." Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal expressed the hope that the mission of Lakhdar Brahimi, the UN special envoy to Yemen, would be successful, because it proceeds from a general international concern to halt the fighting and end the current bloody struggle between the two Yemens.

His highness stressed that all the disputed issues could be settled peacefully on the basis of affection and brotherliness, not fighting. He said: "War cannot be an instrument in cooperation and cohesion between Arab societies. Proceeding from this, we are all concerned with the need to end the fighting as soon as possible. I have also noticed this concern from our brothers in Syria".

His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal left Damascus this evening after a short visit to Syria.

Al-Asad Receives Yemeni Justice Minister

JN1106170594 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1605 GMT 11 Jun 94

[Text] Damascus, 11 Jun (SANA)—President Hafiz al-Asad received 'Abdallah Ghanim, minister of justice in the Republic of Yemen, at al-Rawdah Palace at 1800 today.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', Justice Minister Dr. 'Abdallah Tulbah, and Yemeni Charge d'Affaires 'Abdallah al-Iryani.

Urges End to Fighting

JN1106181294 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 11 Jun 94

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received 'Abdallah Ghanim, minister of justice in the Republic of Yemen, at al-Rawdah Palace at 1800 today.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', Justice Minister Dr. 'Abdallah Tulbah, and Yemeni Charge d'Affaires 'Abdallah al-Iryani.

Ghanim delivered a message to President al-Asad from President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council in the Republic of Yemen, on the situation in Yemen.

Talks dealt with the regrettable developments in the Yemeni arena. The president reiterated Syria's previous and repeated call on the Yemeni brothers to stop fighting and solve their differences through dialogue.

Ministers Receive Canadian Delegation, Discuss Trade

JN1206154494 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 29 May p 4

[Text] Damascus (SANA)—Economy and Foreign Trade Minister Dr. Muhammad al-'Imadi yesterday received a Canadian delegation led by John Shasha [name as transliterated], minister of international affairs and immigration in Quebec, and company representatives from different sectors. Their discussions dealt with the possibility of increasing trade between Syria and Canada. Dr. al-'Imadi briefed the guest delegation on economic progress in Syria and the prospects for investment. The delegation showed great interest in and understanding of the economic procedures and laws which Syria is pursuing to encourage investment.

The Canadian delegation was also received yesterday by Electricity Minister Dr. Kamil al-Baba in the presence of the Canadian ambassador in Damascus. The discussion dealt with electricity in Syria, the growing annual demand for electricity, and the measures being taken to ensure continuous power supply to all industrial, agricultural, and commercial projects of the public, private, and mixed sectors as well as for domestic use.

The two sides also discussed the prospects for cooperation with Canada and Quebec and the possibility of their providing and installing 230 and 4 Kilovolt lines, transformer plants, and five- phase power lines.

A meeting with the Canadian delegation was also held yesterday at the Damascus Chamber of Commerce in the presence of Dr. Ratib al- Shallah, chairman of the Chamber; Dr. Yahya al-Hindi, chairman of the Damascus Chamber of Industry; and the Canadian ambassador in Damascus. Dr. al-Shallah reviewed the development and growth of economic and trade cooperation between Syria and Canada. The Canadian ambassador also reviewed the many fields of cooperation between the two countries, especially imports and exports, and spoke about the need to increase trade.

Dennis Richard [name as transliterated], Canadian deputy minister for international affairs, immigration, and culture, said the delegation had studied the Syrian market before coming on this visit and observed the

great possibilities for increasing imports and economic cooperation between the two countries.

The meeting was attended by the chairman of the Aleppo Chamber of Commerce, the chairman of the Damascus Rural Area Chamber of Commerce, and a group of Syrian businessmen.

Talas Receives Canadian Defense Minister

JN1006054094 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2015 GMT 9 Jun 94

[Text] At his office at 2000 today, Lieutenant General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the Army and Armed Forces, deputy prime minister, and defense minister, received Canadian Defense Minister David Collenette and his accompanying delegation. The meeting was attended by Major General 'Awwad Bagh, deputy defense minister, and Canada's ambassador in Damascus.

The conferees discussed the cordial relations between the armed forces of the two countries and ways of enhancing them.

The guest minister arrived in Damascus this afternoon on a cordial visit, during which he will inspect Canadian troops operating within the disengagement troops on the Golan.

Qaddurah, al-Shar' Receive Lithuanian Delegation

JN0906164494 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 9 Jun 94

[Text] People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah today received a Lithuanian parliamentary delegation led by Lithuanian Parliament Speaker Ceslovas Jursenas. Shakir Is'id, chairman of the Arab and Foreign Affairs Committee, attended.

Qaddurah briefed the delegation on the democratic process and the role and work of the People's Assembly. Talks centered on parliamentary relations and ways to develop them as well as issues and developments in the region and the peace process.

Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received Mr. Jursenas this afternoon. The meeting was attended by Shakir Is'id, chairman of the Arab and Foreign Affairs Committee in the People's Assembly, and Hunayn Hatim, acting director of the Eastern Europe desk at the Foreign Ministry. Talks dealt with the new developments in the peace process, the Baltic situation, and bilateral relations and ways of promoting them in all fields.

Jursenas Makes Statement

JN1106123394 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 11 Jun 94

[Text] The Lithuanian parliamentary delegation, led by Parliament Speaker Ceslovas Jursenas, left Damascus this morning at the end of a visit to Syria that lasted for several days. He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah, and a number of ranking people's Assembly officials.

Before departure, Jursenas made a statement to a SANA correspondent in which he expressed pleasure at meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad.

He added: As we leave Damascus, we take with us a good impression. We understand the positions and nature of Syria's policy more than before, especially those dealing with the peace process. We support Resolution 242, and stress that Israel should withdraw from the occupied Arab territories.

Afghanistan

Rabbani Government Proposes Peace Formula

BK0906101594 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 9 Jun 94

[Text] In Afghanistan, President Borhanoddin Rabbani's government has submitted a two-point peace formula for the restoration of durable peace in the country. The formula provides for the ceasing forthwith of rocket attacks on Kabul, honoring the cease-fire, and opening up all highways leading to Kabul. It also proposes the setting up of an authoritative nongovernmental commission to initiate work on the Representative Council and Grand Assembly.

Rabbani Meets With Provincial Governors

LD1206193594 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1600 GMT 12 Jun 94

[Excerpt] The Press Office of the Islamic State of Afghanistan reported to the Bakhtar Information Agency that esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, received last night esteemed General Mohammad Esmail Khan, general amir of the Southwestern Zone, along with his accompanying delegation.

At the meeting, Rabbani spoke in detail about the political-military situation of the country and gave detailed instructions to the governors of the provinces who are included in the delegation with esteemed General Mohammad Esmael Khan.

In this meeting, esteemed Lieutenant-General Taj Mohammad Qari Baba spoke on behalf of the country's governors, within this delegation, and expressed his readiness for the consolidation of the Islamic State and defense of the gains of jihad. [passage omitted]

Six Killed, 25 Injured in Attack on Kabul

LD1106162294 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 11 Jun 94

[Text] Six people were martyred and another 25 injured in Kabul when the Karmal-Golboddin-Dostam militia fired Sakar type missiles and mortar shells at Kabul residential regions. The Kabul garrison command reports that six Sakar type missiles and mortar shells were fired at Kabul city last night and this morning, as a result of which six citizens of Kabul were martyred and another 25 people injured. [passage indistinct]

Twelve Killed, 100 Wounded in Shindand Fighting

LD1206202494 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 12 Jun 94

[Text] Intense clashes between President Borhanoddin Rabbani's forces and the opposition forces continued in the Shindand region of Herat Province for the second consecutive day. According to a report released by the coalition opposed to Rabbani's presidency, 12 people were killed and 100 others were wounded.

The coalition sources added that fighting continues in Qurmash region as well as in Badgheys Province, and the opposition forces have captured some positions of the government troops in this region.

Dostam Militia Commander, Men Join Islamic Army

LD1206172294 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1600 GMT 12 Jun 94

[Text] Quoting a security source, a Bakhtar Information Agency correspondent reports that Commander Mohammad Zaman of the 195th Division of Dostam's militia and a number of his men joined the Mojahedin of the Islamic Army in Durah-e Hayratan, Mazar-e Sharif Province yesterday.

The men who joined the Islamic Army pledged to carry out self-sacrifices for the defense of the territory of the Islamic State alongside Mojahedin and forces of the Islamic Army.

Counterfeit U.S, Pakistani Currency Seized

LD1206180994 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1600 GMT 12 Jun 94

[Excerpt] According to a report by a Bakhtar Information Agency correspondent, recently (?two) people who were exchanging counterfeit money in a Kabul bazaar were arrested. Two thousand Pakistan rupees and 900 U.S. dollars were seized from them.

Mohammad Esmael (?Warsagi), head of the department for the campaign against crime, says the aforementioned men confessed that the bank notes were put at their disposal by Golboddin's party.

The report adds that Kabul city moneychangers are concerned about counterfeit U.S. dollar and Pakistani rupees and are taking great care when dealing with money.

It was reported earlier that 10 cartons of paper that are used in printing bank notes in Pakistan were intercepted at Peshawar airport and were later released when certain secret groups intervened.

Golboddin, whose propaganda concerning the printing of afghani bank notes did not achieve any result, resorted to selling men to Azerbaijan in exchange for dollars, in order to free himself from economic hardship. This latest action is his final instrument in order to accumulate wealth for himself and undermine the value of afghanis.

Under the condition where Kabul has been reconnected to one of the important ports of Afghanistan, and an export route between Afghanistan and Central Asia has been opened, the value of the afghani is increasing daily. [indistinct passage omitted]

India

Kashmir 'Militants' Fire Rocket at Radio Transmitter

BK1106091094 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 11 Jun 94

[Text] In the Kashmir Valley, militants fired a rocket and resorted to heavy firing last night on a building in Srinagar which houses the transmitter of the commercial service of Radio Kashmir. It however did not cause any damage to the transmitter. The militants fled when security fores returned the fire. Meanwhile, three militants and two jawans [soldiers] of paramilitary forces were killed and 11 others injured in separate incidents during the past 24 hours. The security forces have sealed off the Batamaloo area in central Srinagar to flush out militants.

Authorities in Srinagar are hopeful of securing an early release of the two British trekkers who were kidnapped by militants five days ago. An official spokesman said the safety of the kidnapped persons is the first priority of the authorities. The father of one of the kidnapped persons told AIR [All India Radio] Srinagar correspondent that efforts are under way for an early release of the hostages. He also appreciated the role of the authorities in this connection.

British Nationals Still Captive

BK1306041694 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 13 Jun 94

[Text] In the Kashmir valley, the two British kidnapped by militants continue to be under their captivity despite the promises made by the abductors that they will be released at any time. The father of the kidnapped 16-year old boy, Mr. David Housego, told our Srinagar correspondent that his anxiety is increasing because of the attitude of the militants. Relatives of the kidnapped persons had even gone to Pahalgam in the hope of securing their release, but returned to Srinagar last evening.

Home Minister Rules Out General Amnesty in Kashmir

BK0706112794 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 7 Jun 94

[Text] The home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, has said the time is not yet ripe for declaring the general amnesty in Jammu and Kashmir or lifting the ban on the militant outfit JKLF [Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front]. He said the stage for general amnesty will come when the center takes a political decision as a final solution to the problem. In an interview to PTI, the home minister said the Jammu and Kashmir government has already been reviewing the cases of release of some of the detenus against whom there were no serious charges. Mr. Chavan said he will be visiting the state in about a months time to hold public meetings in various areas.

In Jammu and Kashmir, curfew has been imposed in Bhadarwah town of Doda District as a precautionary measure following the killing of a youth by the militants this morning. The youth was shot dead by the militants while he was going to an adjoining locality.

Most of the foreign mercenaries in Kashmir are critical of Pakistan for misleading them on jihad as they do not find the prevailing situation in the valley as such. Two Pakistani mercenaries—Mohammad Ramzan of Faisalabad and Fahadullah of Multan told newspersons at Jammu yesterday that Pakistan is infiltrating foreign mercenaries into Kashmir for political purposes after indoctrinating them in the name of jihad. They said there is no danger to Islam in Kashmir. Both of them disclosed that the Lahore based (Markaz-e-Dawatul Arshad) and the ISI [Inter Services Intelligence] are training Muslims from foreign countries for fanning international terrorism in the name of jihad.

Rights Commission Says Kashmir Situation 'Serious'

BK1306063694 Delhi DAINIK JAGRAN in Hindi 7 Jun 94 p 13

[Text] Srinagar 6 June—Justice Rangnath Mishra, chairman of the National Human Rights Commission, has described the human rights situation in the Kashmir valley as serious. Meanwhile, the state administration, in order to hide its shortcomings, did not allow the distressed people to meet the commission delegation which arrived in Srinagar today. Mishra called for taking immediate steps to attend to the complaints of the afflicted people. He said that the National Human Rights Commission will send an investigative team to the valley in September to look into the complaints of human rights violations. The commission members are visiting the state now.

Mishra said the commission has received nearly 50 complaints about human rights violations in the valley. Of these complaints, 14 were sent by mail to the commission in Delhi. Twenty-five complainants met him on 5 June in Srinagar. Eight complaints were received on 6 June.

Mishra said many complaints are against terrorists and security forces. Asked whether members of the All Parties Freedom Conference and the Kashmir Bar Association met him during his two-day stay in Delhi, he said there was no response from these organizations even though they were invited through a special letter. Mishra said before coming here, the commission had asked for reports from the state government about 14 complaints. About the alleged mass killings in Kupwara, Bijbiara and other places, Mishra said large-scale violence has been alleged at these places. We will find out the truth, he said. He said the government report on the Kupwara incidents in January will likely be received on 7 June. It is alleged that 17 people died from shooting by security forces.

Mishra denied that the commission is working on the advice of the state government. He said the commission is an independent body and its programs are worked out independently. He said they had come to the valley according to the program worked out out by them. Mishra said most of the complaints involve those taken away for interrogation by the security forces during their raids and search operations and subsequently could not be traced. All such matters will be referred to the state government, which will present its views before carrying out detailed investigations.

When Mishra and other members of the commission were asked about complaints regarding custodial deaths in Pulwama, Anantnag and Kupwara, they said they were unaware of such cases. They asked the journalists to provide detailed information in this regard so that they can investigate.

Asked whether the commission will visit Kupwara, Anantnag, Pulwama, Badgam and Baramula, they said they had no such plan. At the same time, they said the commission has received a complaint from a villager in Kupwara that his brother, who was a teacher, was arrested and later killed by the security forces near a religious place.

Mishra said that a large number of people met the commission members, but they were unable to visit some other places in the valley to assess the situation correctly. Asked whether the commission will visit the valley again in view of the 'explosive situation' here, he said the commission will first look into the complaints received so far and visit the valley again if necessary.

The commission was formed last year.

Police Accuse Suspects of Building Terror Network

BK0906133994 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 7 Jun 94 p 4

[Text] In a major breakthrough, the Delhi police has arrested a Hizbul Mujahideen militant and two of his associates who were in the process of establishing a country-wide terrorist network.

They were trying to carry out their mission with the help of fundamentalist organisations in various towns and cities, including Delhi.

Their objective was to target prominent Kashmiri political leaders and spread terror among the general population.

Police picked up Mushtaq Ahmed, 28 and his associate Khaliq-u-Zaman, 30 on Sunday from near a Mazhar in Adarsh Nagar in North West Delhi where the two had rendezvoused.

A Chinese pistol with 8 rounds and 4 stick grenades were recovered flom their possession. Another associate, Shahid Anis Azmi, 18 was earlier arrested by a team of Delhi Police in Bombay from where he was operating for the past few months.

Their interrogation revealed that they were on a specific mission to establish a terrorist network in metropolitan towns by recruiting local Muslim youth who were later trained in arms and explosives in Kashmir.

An organisation called the Minorities United Front (MUF) had been floated by the Hizbul Mujahideen for this purpose in December 1992 in the aftermath of the demolition of the disputed structure at Ayodhya.

Additional police commissioner (CID) R S Gupta said on Monday that Mushtaq Ahmed, a resident of Anantnag, acting on orders of Hizbul Chief Salauddin, was coordinating the search for potential Muslim recruits.

The entire operation brought into open the hand of Pakistan's ISI, he added.

After having enrolled himself in the Unani Medical College in Gaya in mid-1993, Ahmed had been visiting various hotbeds of fundamentalism in Bihar and UP for identifying Muslim youth.

Ahmed contacted various madrasas in Etawah, Muzaffamagar, Gaya, Calcutta and Bombay. Cells were set up in these places and many youth were taken to Kashmir for training in arms and explosives.

The objective was to create a team of dedicated youth owing allegiance to Hizbul Mujahideen and willing to undertake various terrorist activities including the assassination of top political leaders connected with Kashmir.

According to Gupta, most of the recruits belonged to Muslim fundamentalist bodies such as the Students Islamic Movement of India (SIMI), Students Islamic Organisation (SIO) and Aljehad, organisation active in Western UP.

Both Khaliq-u-Zaman and Shahid Anis Azmi were active workers of SIMI. Khaliq-u-Zaman, who belongs to Hamirpur in UP, worked in the Delhi office of SIMI and joined the MUF around six months back.

After receiving arms training in Anantnag, he helped recruit two boys from Etawah who were also later sent to Kashmir for training. Shahid Anis Azmi, who originally hails from Azamgarh in UP, was associated with the SIMI office in Bombay and joined the MUF in 1993. He had since been helping Ahmed recruit Muslim youth.

A fourth associate, Assadullah, who is presently in the custody of the Calcutta police, also figures as a prominent member of the network.

Assadullah, who is to be brought to the Capital shortly by the Delhi Police, was working for the SIO and had been making frequent forays into Bangladesh to create hideouts there for the terrorists to escape after carrying out their mission in the country.

Ahmed has revealed that at least eight youth had been recruited so far from various towns and cities to function as agents of the Hizbul Mujahideen.

Police officials, however, said the figure could be higher. Efforts were on to get more information of the activities of Ahmed and his associates from some key documents seized from him.

Telephone numbers from an electronic wrist watch which Ahmed was wearing at the time of his arrest are also being investigated.

Ahmed has also revealed that a weapons consignment in two trucks had been dispatched from Kashmir to various areas in the country. Police were making efforts to locate the destination of the consignment.

Police officials said that although the group had not carried out any strike, plans were at an advanced stage for terrorist strikes in Delhi and Calcutta and funds in this regard had already been distributed.

The arrested persons were booked under the Arms Act, Explosives Act and TADA and remanded to police custody on Monday. Further investigations are on.

Task Forces Formed To Curb Northeastern Insurgencies

BK1106111294 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1630 GMT 10 Jun 94

[Text] Task forces will be constituted beginning today to tackle the ongoing insurgency problem in the seven northeastern states of the country. This was decided in a meeting between Mr. Rajesh Pilot and the chief ministers of Assam, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and the governor of Manipur in New Delhi this evening. Talking to Doordarshan correspondent V. Mira, the minister said that the situation will be reviewed after three months with the chief ministers of all seven states.

[Begin recording] [Mira] How do you view the law and order situation in the northeastern states?

[Rajesh Pilot] Well, today we had the meeting with all the honorable chief ministers of the northeast states. We had reviewed the situation. We had reviewed the implementation of these decisions and also we took further steps after reviewing the situation. What is further needed, we have also decided on those lines and I have requested them to go very hard way against the insurgents and their activities and what all help could be given from center. I have totally offered them that center is totally with them to curb the insurgency in northeastern region of our country. I feel that Assam, Manipur, Nagaland—these are the three states which are slightly under a high pressure of insurgency at the moment. [end recording]

Customs Seizes Copies of Economic Magazine

BK0806135894 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 4 Jun 94 p 5

[Text] New Delhi, June 3 (HTC) [HINDUSTAN TIMES correspondent]—Customs officials this morning confiscated a consignment of a foreign magazine, which reached the cargo terminal's import division from USA, as "it had objectionable photographs of Indian flags being burnt".

A consignment of about 300 copies of FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW was confiscated by a customs inspector under the supervision of an Assistant Collector Bandana Deori.

According to sources in the customs, the weekly magazine carried several photographs of mobs burning the Indian flag. The decision to confiscate the magazine was taken then and there as the magazine issue is a current one.

When contacted the customs chief Anand Bordia said there are specific government notifications pertaining to a) news items or photographs distorting the Indian map b) news or photographs which may incite communal passion c) news items or insertions which can threaten the country's security and d) obscene literature. He said on these grounds the customs is empowered to confiscate any literature which is incoming or outgoing.

Mr Bordia said whenever such 'distortions' are noticed the customs sends the matter for opinion to the Ministry of Home Affairs [MHA]. In the case of the FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW, the possible explanation of a quick decision to confiscate it was due to lack of time. He said the magazine is a current issue and since 'abberation' conformed to the GOI [Government of India] notifications, the magazines were seized before sending the matter to MHA.

Sources in the cargo division also informed that a huge consignment of another foreign magazine INDIA ABROAD was confiscated recently as it has objectionable news reports on the situation of the Kashmir Valley. Similarly, a book on Kashmir, published from United Kingdom, was also banned entry to India by the customs because of alleged inflammatory insertions about militant ravaged Valley.

Iran

Visit of Bosnian Foreign Minister Reported

Ljubijankic Arrives; Meets Velayati

LD1006103494 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 10 Jun 94

[Text] Irfan Ljubijankic, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia-Herzegovina, arrived in Tehran this morning at the head of a delegation and was welcomed by Foreign Affairs Minister Velayati.

During the Bosnian-Herzegovinan foreign minister's visit to Tehran, apart from talks on bilateral relations and the latest developments in that country, the agreements reached between the two countries during the visit to Tehran by the prime minister of Bosnia-Herzegovina will also be discussed.

On arrival in Tehran, the Bosnian-Herzegovinan foreign minister said: We are seeking appropriate grounds to establish peace, but as the main causes of the war in Bosnia are still there, the achievement of peace seems difficult.

On the Bosnian Government's views on the UN Security Council's disagreement with the dispatch of peacekeeping forces from Islamic countries to Bosnia he said: The Government of Bosnia continues its efforts to win the agreement of that organization [UN] for the dispatch of forces from Islamic countries, particularly from the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The Bosnian foreign minister said that among the reasons for the Western countries' contradictory handling of the Bosnian problem are their national interests and strategic considerations.

Offers Thanks for Aid

LD1006183294 Tehran IRNA in English 1504 GMT 10 Jun 94

[Text] Tehran, June 10, IRNA—Bosnian Minister of Foreign Affairs Irfan Ljubljankic in a speech at the Friday prayers here today thanked Iranian Muslim people for their aid to his people.

"Iranian relief aid stregthened this feeling in the Bosnian people that they are not alone in their legitimate defence against aggressors," he said.

Up to now, he said, over 200,000 Bosnian Muslims have been killed and that the only reason for the whole aggression and massacre of innocent people is that the Bosnian people were Muslim.

He termed the defence against the Serbian aggression as "the natural right of the Bosnian people" and called for the lifting of the arms embargo on his country.

Ljubljankic who arrived here today for talks with the Iranian authorities on the current Bosnian peace negotiations, said that the Bosnian Government would continue its efforts to gain the United Nations consent to the dispatch of the Islamic for [passage indistinct].

Meets With Hashemi-Rafsanjani

LD1106165494 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in Persian 1600 GMT 11 Jun 94

[Text] President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani received Bosnian Foreign Minister Irfan Ljubljankic today. The president praised the brave holy war of the Muslims of Bosnia-Herzegovina against the Serb aggressors, and said that the Islamic Republic of Iran will continue to stand alongside the Muslim people of Bosnia. The president also stressed the need for comprehensive international support in realizing the rights of the Bosnian Muslims.

Emphasizing the determination of the Muslims of Bosnia-Herzegovina in defending their beliefs and existence, and speaking on behalf of the president, the government and the people of his country, the Bosnian foreign minister thanked the revolutionary people and government of Iran for their humanitarian aid.

UN Envoy: Iran To Help Rebuild Sarajevo

LD0806194894 Tehran IRNA in English 1630 GMT 8 Jun 94

[Text] Tehran, June 8, IRNA—The Vienna conference has decided to include Iran in the coordination group set up for the reconstruction of Sarajevo, envoy of the U.N. secretary-general, William Eagleton announced here Wednesday.

Eagleton in a meeting with Deputy Foreign Minister for International Affairs Mohammad Javad Zarif also presented the documents of various projects for reconstruction of Sarajevo, and explained the projects's priorities.

Zarif in return emphasized the importance of supporting the reconstruction projects in Sarajevo and said Iran was ready to have active presence in them.

The conference on the reconstruction of Sarajevo was held in Vienna on 24-25 May at the invitation of the U.N. secretary general envoy to the former Yugoslavia.

Senior officials of the Bosnian Government and representatives from 30 countries including Iran participated in the conference.

Commentary on Significance of Bosnia Ties, Embargo

NC1106075494 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 11 Jun 94

[Commentary by News Research and Commentary Group]

[Text] The foreign minister of Bosnia-Herzegovina arrived yesterday in Tehran at the head of a high-level political delegation on an official visit. On his arrival in Tehran, he attended the Friday prayers and described the Islamic Republic of Iran as the best friend of the Bosnian nation. He thanked the Iranian people for their assistance to his compatriots.

The Islamic Republic of Iran is playing host to the Bosnian delegation and this is an indication of the ideological bonds between the two Muslim nations of Iran and Bosnia-Herzegovina. During the past two years, in which an unjust war in Bosnia- Herzegovina has sealed the fate of the defenseless people of this Republic,

the Islamic Republic of Iran has consistently expressed its support for the oppressed people of Bosnia-Herzegovina and has welcomed the creation of conditions for a just peace.

At present, the Bosnian crisis is a conspicuous example of a struggle that, according to the country's foreign minister, has created conducive conditions for the involvement of all the progressive European countries as well as the intelligentsia. However, as far as the rights of the Bosnian Muslims are concerned, there has been nothing but a prejudiced approach and a discriminatory policy by the Western echelons.

From this vantage point, the unstinting support of the Islamic Republic of Iran is a help in healing the sorrows of the defenseless Bosnian people and a reliable catalyst for the continuation of resistance against the Serb aggressors. In the most difficult conditions, the Islamic Republic of Iran has risen up in support of the Bosnians and has encountered political pressure and restrictions as well as negative propaganda from the common enemies of the Muslim peoples of Iran and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The current peace talks in Geneva have not yielded any results and are merely being viewed as tactical and political moves on the part of Western officials. In any case, it is hoped that the relations between the two Muslim nations of Iran and Bosnia-Herzegovina, which are based on common cultural denominators and Islamic thinking, will broaden in the future and that the oppressed Bosnian nation will also be delivered as soon as possible from the clutches of injustice prevailing in the Balkans.

Velayati on Ties With Arab World, Terrorism

NC1006160594 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 7 Jun 94 p 6

[Interview with Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati by al-Sayyid al-Mallah and Ahmad al-Suyufi in Cairo; date not given]

[Text] [AL-SHA'B] The question citizens in both Cairo and Tehran must hear is what happened in your talks with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa?

[Velayati] First, we are extremely happy to be in Cairo and among the Egyptian people. We attribute great importance to Egypt, its people, and its role. We believe that this country and people play a major role in the Islamic world—a role no one can deny, ignore, or forget. It is an important, historic, and pivotal role, not only in Egypt, but throughout the whole Islamic world.

[AL-SHA'B] But we would like to know what happened during the meeting. Was the issue of restoring ties to normal discussed?

[Velayati] If you mean the establishment of official diplomatic ties, this was not discussed during the meeting, which lasted one whole hour. However, what was discussed during the meeting was everything that has to do with joint cooperation between the two countries in international forums. In addition, we discussed all the international issues of interest to the two countries, such as Palestine, the war in Yemen, and the future of the Nonaligned Movement and the Islamic Conference Organization.

[AL-SHA'B] Do you have any specific ideas on restoring relations to normal?

[Velayati] Undoubtedly, this requires action to reach joint agreement, eliminate all suspicions, and remove misconceptions on both sides.

[AL-SHA'B] Could we say there was some progress at this meeting, or that it had some positive results?

[Velayati] Of course some progress was made. And of course some positive points emerged. It is enough for me to tell you this: I have been foreign minister of Iran for 13 years (since 1981) and this is my first visit to Egypt. My mere presence in Egypt is a good and positive step. I can confirm to you that our discussions were constructive and positive. During the meeting, we affirmed both countries' desire to start good bilateral cooperation in the international arena.

[AL-SHA'B] Now we come to the most thorny issue, the long-standing accusation that the Islamic Republic of Iran is exporting terrorism to the Islamic World, and even around the world. What do you have to say about this accusation?

[Velayati] This is not new; Iran is not the first country to be accused of such things. During the 'Abd-al-Nasir era, Egypt itself was subjected to such accusations.

This is an old weapon the West uses to put pressure on countries, especially those who refuse to submit to the control of the Western powers. None of those who have leveled this accusation can actually prove it. It is no more than dangling the sword of Damocles over the heads of those who go against Western and Zionist views. Notice, for example, that yesterday Israel carried out bestial raids on the al-Biqa' Valley in Lebanon, killing and injuring many people. I heard one of the Israeli officials tell the London radio about this raid, saying there is a batch of terrorists whom they have gone to kill. Killing people falls into the realm of terrorism. Israel kidnapped Mustafa al-Dirani from among his own children, and then said he is a terrorist. Those who kidnap people from their homes, terrorize them, and kill other people are the ones accusing the kidnapped and dead of being terrorists. The killer and kidnapper who is practicing all kinds of terrorism is not being accused of terrorism. The Mustafa al-Dirani crime is a peculiar one. Previously a batch of Israeli planes raided Lebanon and it happened that one of the planes was downed and the Israeli pilot captured. When the pilot was handed back, al-Dirani was the one who handed him over, so he was accused of having captured the pilot and was kidnapped. Who can claim that one person is a terrorist and another

person is not? It is a strange game they use to gain control over countries. Praise be to God this game has been exposed.

[AL-SHA'B] If there are good intentions to improve ties between Iran and the Arab world, there are obstacles blocking the way, including the disputed islands with the United Arab Emirates [UAE]. Why don't we start by looking for a solution to this crisis?

[Velayati] It is historically documented that these islands belong to Iran, and we have the documents to prove it. We are ready to send them to anyone who wants to see them. So why is this issue being used as a pretext to stir up trouble with the brothers by others, who are always lying in wait for us and are never short of ways to do so. We want to stress, through your paper, that we are ready to sit down with the UAE to negotiate in accordance with the 1971 agreement. I personally visited the UAE last year, met with His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan, and held good talks with him. We also met with his son, His Highness Shaykh Hamdan, and the foreign minister, whom we invited to visit Tehran, but he has not done so yet. So what else could we have done? I went there personally and the natural thing was for him to reciprocate the visit. I hereby, through your paper, renew my invitation to him; and I hope he will respond to it, because dialogue is the only way to resolve our problems. Let met tell you about another incident. When we were attending the nonaligned meeting in Jakarta with President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, [UAE foreign minister] Rashid 'Abdallah said: His Highness Shaykh Zayid asks you as Iranian officials to adopt an appropriate stand and to act more appropriately regarding the issue of the Abu-Musa islands. President Hashemi-Rafsanjani immediately ordered us to send the director general of the Iranian Foreign Ministry to discuss the Abu-Musa issue. I immediately contacted him and we sent him to Abu-Musa the same day. Rashid 'Abdallah told us that he was very pleased about what we did. The director general of our ministry took several measures to eliminate the problem. On his way back he stopped over at the nearby Bandar-e 'Abbas to take the plane back to Tehran, but he was surprised to hear of a Gulf Cooperation Council statement denouncing Iran. For the record, Shaykh Rashid 'Abdallah was not present when the statement was issued.

[AL-SHA'B] We want to know your precise position regarding the Gaza-Jericho Agreement?

[Velayati] Our position now is the same as our position before and our permanent position, which rejects any agreements with the Zionists.

[AL-SHA'B] You have good ties with Syria, so what would you do if Syria concluded a peace agreement with Israel? Would this affect your relations?

[Velayati] We are against any agreement with Israel by any party. This does not mean that we are not aware of the kind of pressure to which Syria is being subjected by all sides. Suffice it to mention here the numerous campaigns directed against Lebanon, Syria's closest neighbor. If such agreements were signed, naturally it would affect our bilateral relations. We still consider Syria the only major country left to confront Israeli domination.

[AL-SHA'B] We would like to learn about current relations between you and Iraq. The Egyptian public is wondering why you and Iraq do not settle the pending problems between you, since you are both Islamic nations. Topping these pending issues is the issue of the POW's and the aircraft you are holding in Iran. Iraq still accuses you of treating it harshly. What do you have to say about all of this?

[Velayati] Our viewpoint is the exact opposite of the Iraqi viewpoint. Regarding the Iraqi aircraft we are holding, this matter is governed by the Security Council resolutions. Internationally, we are not authorized to return them. We cannot violate Security Council resolutions. The problem will be resolved within its own framework. Moreover, we are not the only ones who have Iraqi aircraft in their possession. There are some planes in other countries—Jordan, for example.

Regarding the prisoners, we say the same thing that Iraq says. We have a mutual problem. They have our prisoners and we have theirs. We believe that there should be a bilateral exchange of prisoners. For your information, an Iranian delegation will visit Iraq on 11 June. A month after that I will visit Iraq myself. A few days ago I met with the Iraqi foreign minister; we have frequent meetings. We are great advocates of the belief that everything can be achieved through dialogue and meetings.

[AL-SHA'B] We are puzzled by your stand regarding the Kashmir issue and what is being said about your stand against the Muslims. What is your real stand on this matter?

[Velayati] I wish to confirm to the two of you that not a single Islamic or non-Islamic country has cooperated more with Pakistan over the Kashmir issue. You can ask Pakistan if you wish; we challenge you to find a country that has done one-third as much as us.

[AL-SHA'B] Undoubtedly, you have made contributions on the Bosnia issue. But the Islamic world expected you in particular to take a more effective and influential stand than you have taken so far. Why have you taken such a stand?

[Velayati] I was in Sarajevo last month. I do not wish to tell you what we did there, but I will quote public statements by President Alija Izetbegovic to correspondents: All aspects of the Iranian role in Bosnia will go down in history. Had it not been for Iran, Bosnia would not be in the condition we see it in today. Iran has so far provided many forms of aid. It has also made a proposal to give military aid.

Velayati then added: A few days ago, THE WASHINGTON POST published an article in which it confirmed that Iranian planes had transported shipments of arms to Bosnia. Irrespective of the truth of this report, we do is not rule out this kind of undertaking in dealing with Bosnia, where we have seen forms of ugliness unknown to us before.

[AL-SHA'B] Before we end this dialogue, we wish to learn about your stand on what you call the state of the "great Satan."?

[Velayati] Our stand on the great Satan is the same. It has not changed. It is the same old stand. There is nothing new in it. We have no objections to establishing cordial relations with any party on condition that that party respects our causes and does not support our enemies.

Velayati on Results of Nonaligned Movement Meeting

LD0906190594 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in Persian 1620 GMT 9 Jun 94

[Studio interview with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati by unidentified correspondent; date not given; from the "Political Roundtable" program—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Correspondent] Your Excellency, Mr. Velayati: Once again I thank you for taking part in the program. As my first question, the concluding statement of the session of the foreign ministers of the member countries of the Nonaligned Movement [NAM] has stressed a number of points that show the movement's political activity. Before the recent session, the inactivity of the NAM raised a number of questions pertaining to the survival of the movement. Why did such activity take the form that it took?

[Velayati] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate, I greet the dear viewers and thank you for preparing this program. I should mention that your view is correct. That is, during a period after the collapse of the former Soviet Union and the so-called eastern camp, the NAM became confused for a while. As you mentioned, some people were doubtful about the continuation of an active life for the movement. [passage omitted]

During the recent Cairo session, as you mentioned, we saw a revival of the NAM. South Africa is the most significant African country, with its revolution against apartheid having recently succeeded and with a particular credibility throughout the world. South Africa's membership in the NAM and the active participation of its foreign minister in the Cairo session is a good sign of the revival of the NAM. The active participation of the foreign minister of Bosnia is the same. Also various other activities, which we will mention, all indicate that the movement is active. Active countries of the Third World—revolutionary countries that have problems with the West and the current system that rules the world—all speak about the fact that people have regained their optimism for the NAM.

[Correspondent] Numerous international issues were discussed by the movement, including a discussion on the Zionist regime. Would you please give some explanation on this?

[Velayati] The stance of NAM regarding the Zionist regime is a special stance, which has been so from the beginning. It began in 1358 [year beginning 21 March 1979], when the Islamic Republic of Iran joined the NAM, and has continued up to the present. I can tell you, the movement's stance regarding the Palestine issue has remained virtually unchanged. The NAM members have always laid emphasis on the implementation of the UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. Those resolutions do not mean the liberation of all of the occupied territories but require, or, rather, guarantee the liberation of those territories that were occupied in the 1967 war. Naturally, we opposed that thinking, but I can tell you that in the movement we have been almost alone in this regard from the beginning.

The decision-making method in the movement is such that if 90 or more percent of the movement members agree on an issue and several states oppose it, then that issue is adopted and the states opposing it declare their reservation. Regarding Palestine, in the past, whether at the summit sessions—where the honorable President Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani; Engineer Musavi, former Islamic Republic of Iran prime minister; and the exalted leader [Khamene'i], when he held the presidency, took part—or at the foreign ministers' gatherings, the NAM stance concerning Palestine has always been different from that of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Therefore, they used to make a decision and we would declare our reservation. Not even once did they adopt a position that would coincide with the position we sought—neither there, nor at the Islamic Conference Organization sessions, nor at the UN.

[Correspondent] You referred to Bosnia. What action and what coordination was undertaken in this regard?

[Velayati] It was the first time that the NAM unanimously adopted a resolution prepared by the IRI and Malaysia. It was first proposed by Malaysia after consultations with us. The session decided that the IRI and Malaysia should consult with each other and prepare a text. That is what we did and presented to the movement, and latter adopted it. That is the first time that a decisive stance has been taken in favor of Bosnia and against the Serbs, taking into account the fact that the Serbs consider themselves the inheritors of the former Yugoslavia. Yugoslavia was one of the founders of NAM and some of the older members of the movement had reservations regarding a condemnation of Serbia and Montenegro, or, as they called it, Yugoslavia Minor. But in the resolution the stance of the NAM movement was almost the same as that of the IRI and that was a positive development.

[Correspondent] The final statement of the NAM foreign ministers' session also considered issues such as disarmament, human rights and the environment. Would you make a statement on that?

[Velayati] I must say that the issues you referred to, that is disarmament, human rights and the environment, are several important issues at world level, especially in recent years. And the United Nations convenes independent sessions in connection with those important international issues or attached to others or other subjects [as heard]. If the states do not coordinate with each other—third world states or developing states—the wishes of the Western states or the permanent member states of the Security Council will be imposed on them. Among the IRI policies, whether in the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] or in NAM, one is to coordinate these important international issues in those two organizations so that it can have the support of other states for those issues at commissions, committees, and forums where they are raised.

In the ICO we pioneered the human rights plan when it held a session in Pakistan, and following that the foreign ministry deputy for international affairs became the head of the Asia-Oceania human rights committee and the latter made decisions despite the presence of some states that supported the West. And that committee showed a great deal of efficiency, especially in the Vienna session. In the Vienna session the situation was such that Mr. Carter, the former U.S. president, was booed by those non-governmental organizations which had gathered there for human rights. And they failed to realize their points of view, which they intended to impose, because of the resistance of Iran and several other states. This time round we propagated that move into the NAM movement. And what was adopted there was almost what we had proposed in the specific committee. And that was a very good victory. That means that in international forums, those places where human rights are raised, 109 member states of the NAM movement have virtually the same stances and the crucial point which is common for all of us—that common view has been achieved gradually. Some may have been—perhaps under Western pressure—against human rights in various countries being defined according to the traditions, values, and beliefs of those countries and communities, rather than being formed on the basis of Western beliefs which are mainly secular beliefs and are imposed on the rest of the world. That was good progress regarding human rights; and was adopted there.

Regarding disarmament the view of the movement is summarized in this sentence—which is the same as our view. We are for disarmament, but against discrimination. It is not right that in the Middle East or various areas countries should be prohibited from possessing arms which are effective for their defense, while the arsenals of some countries—which are the apples of their eyes, so to speak—are brimming with nuclear, chemical, and conventional arms. That is not right. We are definitely against weapons of mass destruction but we ask why there should be discrimination in favor of some. Israel is a case in point. It is said that Israel has 800 nuclear weapons in its arsenals. That is the view of the NAM movement which coincides with our point of view. I was the person who first mooted that issue in the movement, in my speech. The rest followed suit and eventually it was adopted in a proper form.

[Correspondent] Also the issue of restructuring the system of international relations and the UN system was discussed. Which country raised the issue and, in principle, what does it entail?

[Velayati] Essentially the restructuring of the United Nations is being raised in all states, the international arena and the UN itself. Recently the U.S. President, in his visit to Europe, said that they support Japan and Germany's permanent membership in the Security Council. That in itself is, in reality, a disclosure about a part of a plan to restructure the United Nations. Then that issue, in its general form, is being raised in the whole of the international arena and all the states and all have come to believe that after the passing of about 50 years since the formation of the United Nations a restructure must be carried out. But debates differ as to how that restructuring should be. As developing countries and members of the NAM movement, we believe that a special place must be allocated to us in the United Nations so that these states can put forward, as well as implement, their point of view there.

[Correspondent] I have another question to ask your excellency and that concerns the venue of the NAM foreign ministerial session. Why did the NAM choose Egypt as the venue for its 11th session?

[Velayati] The choice of the country is based on a proposal made by a country that wishes to host the session followed by the approval of the NAM member countries. It does not work like this—that the NAM decides to transfer the venue of the session to a certain country. Usually a country offers, and the offer is discussed and approved by the NAM. Egypt was also one of those countries; perhaps it was the only country that nearly the majority of the NAM members agreed upon as the location for the session.

[Correspondent] What was the reason for the Iranian delegation attending the recent session, bearing in mind that some people believe that perhaps the issue of Iran's relations with Egypt was also on the agenda?

[Velayati] I should mention that attending international sessions that are held at a certain country does not necessarily mean endorsing that country. Or it does not mean that efforts are underway to establish relations with that country, that is, if no relations exist. This is the international norm. Today so many international sessions take place in various parts of the world that this matter does not apply any more. If a country takes part in a session somewhere we cannot blame it for something that does not exist, unless, of course, other signals have been given.

We are members of more than 400 international organizations. Every day the officials from the Islamic Republic take part in meetings in one or several places in the world. This was not the first time that we took part in an international organization in Cairo.

The best example that supports this policy and shows that this policy existed in the past in the Islamic Republic—whether at the time of the Imam, may he be admitted to God's paradise, or whether at the time of the esteemed leader [Khamene'i]—that we take part in international organizations wherever they are held, with the exception of Israel; the best example for this is America. We go to New York to take part in the United Nations. Even more glaring than that, our economic and banking officials go to Washington to take part in the meetings of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. Our presence in Washington to take part in the World Bank does not necessarily mean that we wish to establish relations with America.

Additionally, do the officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs not know that such sensitive political decisions would especially require the complete confirmation of the system? What policy do we wish to advance by doing this, or what are we trying to prevent? So, certainly, there has been no such intention.

These were some preliminary points in our discussion. However, on whether we should or should not take part in the Nonaligned Movement meeting even if it is in Egypt—we certainly should take part. Today, everybody admits that we are one of the five or six most active members of the Nonaligned Movement. Our presence in the Nonaligned Movement is very decisive. I have enumerated some of the decisions that were adopted there as the result of the efforts of the Islamic Republic, and there are more cases.

In our absence, others will definitely not adopt policies that are in our interest. Whether we are present or not, the Nonaligned Movement will hold its session there. They will reach their decisions in our absence, but without taking our views into consideration. How would it be possible that we waste the results of our efforts over many years in the Nonaligned Movement through nonparticipation in these meetings? I should say that we cannot be absent from these meetings at the foreign ministers' level, which are held every three years and which perform a very basic role.

There have been these reasons. Therefore, the holy system of the Islamic Republic of Iran decided to take part in the Nonaligned Movement at the level of foreign minister, and we were authorized to take part. Of course, our own consultative view was also in support of this decision, but the final decisions on these sensitive issues regarding foreign policy do not rest with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. There are hardly any other areas in the decision-making process of the Islamic Republic of Iran that so much attention is paid to the decisions that are adopted. The source that adopts the basic lines of the foreign policy of Iran is definitely the highest decision-making source, which ultimately is approved by the esteemed leader.

[Announcer tries to interrupt, but Velayati continues] Therefore, it was the decision of the system that we should take part in the movement. It is also the decision of the system that we should even have international cooperation with Egypt. This decision had also been adopted in the past and it was reaffirmed and restated on the eve of the last session of the Nonaligned Movement.

Our presence in Egypt did not in any way mean the establishment of diplomatic relations. We had no such intentions. Our government is sincere with its people, and it informs the people about what it decides. The decision of our government, of the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran, was not to establish relations with Egypt by going there. As his excellency the president said in his remarks a few days ago, the decision was that we should take part in the meeting of the Nonaligned Movement. Let me add this—and this has not been said before—that we have been both allowed and indeed tasked to work with Egypt in the field of international activities.

[Correspondent] One of the issues mentioned in the final communique was the issue of Iraq. In the near future you will be visiting Iraq. Will the decisions taken by the NAM be discussed during this visit or not?

[Velayati] I should say that it is not definite that my visit will take place in the near future; but it is highly probable that it will be in the near future. The main aim behind the visit to Iraq is to remove some of the difficulties which exist in our relations. Some of the paragraphs of UN Resolution 598 have not yet been implemented, or have not been implemented fully. We must continue our talks with Iraq, so that the paragraphs which have either not been implemented or which have been partly implemented will be implemented or will be fully implemented.

At the same time, these visits and talks will definitely result in improving relations between Iran and Iraq. One of the areas where we can cooperate with Iraq is definitely on the international stage and on the stage of the NAM. At the moment, Iraq's stance regarding the issue of Palestine is close to the stance of the Islamic Republic, based on what I heard and witnessed from their foreign minister in the recent session of the NAM.

[Correspondent] There are many other questions on Lebanon, on Yemen, and on the next NAM summit meeting and its venue, but as time is short I will leave them for now. If you wish to briefly say something in the form of summing up please do so.

[Velayati] I should say that today the national interests of the countries can be threatened from outside their borders much more than before. Therefore, it is the duty of governments, including our duty as those serving the

holy order of the Islamic Republic, to reduce, diminish, or eliminate these threats as much as we can through our efforts.

Today, the international scene is the most important arena for reaching decisions for or against various countries. What is happening to Iraq today, what has happened to Libya, the pressure which is being exerted over North Korea, what took place in Bosnia, what happened in Somalia, the decisions on all of those were taken almost entirely on the international arena. If they wish to exert pressure on the Islamic Republic of Iran, today it is very unlikely that this can be done on a bilateral basis. What will be done will be on the international scene.

Our people quite rightly expect the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to be present on the international stage and to defend the rights of the Islamic Republic of Iran. If we sit in the Islamic Republic and through various excuses refuse to attend various international organizations—at times, some of these excuses which are recommended to us by certain circles are also very childish—and if we are content with merely issuing statements...[pauses] If our Ministry of Foreign Affairs does not take part in, for instance, the nonaligned meeting, or the UN session, or the ICO session, each of them due to a different reason—the ICO because it was held in Jeddah, the nonaligned meeting because it was held in Cairo, or such and such a UN conference has been held in some part of Europe—if we say that due to this we will not attend them; if instead of going there, making an effort, accepting some risks, and fighting against conspiracies, we sit here and only issue very strongly-worded statements, such statements will definitely have no credibility on the international stage.

Definitely, our people would not be happy with that. The people wish the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to be active. They would like the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to find a way through the maze of the complex problems and difficulties and through all the interrelated and complicated difficulties and obstacles which exist in the present world, and which are specially imposed on us by our enemies. They would like us to find a way out of this maze and to resolve the problems.

Of course, it is much more difficult for us to be present in international organizations and to make efforts to take one step in the interest of the Islamic Republic, rather than sit inside the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and issue statements. Issuing statements and adopting harsh positions will not be very difficult for us, or for the employees of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. What is hard is to be present in international arena, it is to go to the centers of danger.

We will certainly take risks to advance our foreign policy. See, right now, the deputy minister of foreign affairs is in Afghanistan. At the moment, there is no other ambassador in Kabul except the ambassador of the Islamic Republic. Our embassy has been razed to the ground and our ambassador is living in a shelter. At the height of the crisis in Beirut our ambassador or charge d'affaires was there. The third embassy which was opened in Sarajevo was the embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran. To go to those places is to face danger. Nevertheless, we will accept these dangers with open arms if we can untie a knot from the problems of the people.

[Correspondent] Mr. Velayati, thank you for giving us your time.

Velayati's Visit to Germany Previewed

LD1006163094 Tehran IRNA in English 1459 GMT 10 Jun 94

[Text] Tehran, June 10, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati will leave here for Germany on Monday [13 June] to follow up the issues raised in the previous telephone conversations between President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, announced a Foreign Ministry spokesman here today.

The spokesman, Mahmud Mohammadi, said during the visit Velayati would also hand over a message from President Hashemi-Rafsanjani to Chancellor Kohl.

While in Bonn, Velayati is also to discuss expansion of bilateral ties as well as Iran's relations with the European Union (EU) with other German authorities.

Political observers attach importance to the Velayati's visit to Germany in the wake of the Germany's EU presidency in July.

Va'ezi Gives Message From President to Mitterrand

NC1106063794 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 11 Jun 94

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's written message was handed over to President Francois Mitterrand in Paris by Va'ezi, the deputy foreign minister for Euro-American affairs.

According to the Central News Unit, during this meeting the French president stressed the importance of Iran in the region and described the broadening of Tehran-Paris relations. He said: Fortunately, the problems that existed in the path of the expansion of relations between the two countries are in the process of being eliminated.

Francois Mitterrand added: France is seeking durable and reliable relations with Iran and the two sides should work toward this end. He expressed his pleasure at the message from President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and called for more frequent contacts between the officials of the two countries.

During this meeting, Va'ezi declared the Islamic Republic of Iran's readiness to broaden relations with France in all fields.

Holds News Conference

LD1106203694 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 11 Jun 94

[Excerpts] Mohammad Va'ezi, Iran's deputy foreign minister in charge of Euro-American affairs, participated in a Paris news conference at the end of his three-day official trip to France, in which he discussed the outcome of his discussions with French officials.

This is the first time, since Mr. Edouard Balladur came to power in France, that an Iranian official has visited this country, reports the Central News Unit from Paris. [passage omitted]

Speaking on his discussions with his French counterpart, Mr. Va'ezi said: The topics of discussion in these meetings included important regional and international issues, in particular the situations of Afghanistan, Tajikistan, central Asia, Iraq, Persian Gulf, and Bosnia-Herzegovina as well as relations between Iran and the European Union, and the two sides explained their views on each topic.

Our country's deputy foreign minister said that the issue of rescheduling the two country's debts was among topics discussed with French officials, in particular the head of the treasury, and everything is now almost ready for the two countries to solve standing issues in the next few weeks, and that an Iranian delegation will soon travel to Paris for final talks regarding this issue.

Commentary on NATO Ministers' Meeting

LD1006211094 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 10 Jun 94

[Unattributed commentary: "Meeting of NATO's Foreign Ministers in Turkey"]

[Text] The foreign ministers of 16 member states of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, NATO, concluded its one-day meeting in Istanbul, Turkey. At this meeting the NATO foreign ministers discussed various issues faced by this treaty.

One of the most important issues which was discussed was Russia's cooperation with NATO. Based on the final statement of this meeting, NATO's foreign ministers agreed to have closer ties with Russia. However, by announcing their (?definite terms they) rejected some of Russia's demands, including having a special status in return for the West's military coalition. The Russian officials insist on having special relations with NATO which reflect the situation of that country as a major power in the world. To this end Moscow has called for the formation of a consultative system on every issue which comes up urgently. In addition, Moscow has called for cooperation among the members of NATO in the former Warsaw and the Soviet republics. [sentence as heard] This cooperation is carried out in the form of an independent organization which is charged with common politico-military cooperation to stop armed clashes. In return NATO members have announced readiness for unofficial talks with Russia. However, since they do not want all NATO operations to be supervized by Russia they have opposed Moscow's proposal on authorizing Russia to take part in NATO's internal talks.

Political analysts believe since Russia knows that the main objective behind participation (?in the) peace plan, which has been brought up by the United States, is to create a security belt around Russia so as to make necessary preparations against Russia's probable danger in case communists come to power again. Although Russia considers this plan as against its national security it is forced to join it to maintain its influence in the East and in the former Soviet republics, for the East European countries have voluntarily joined this plan, and even if Russia opposes it these European countries will not change their decisions. Therefore, Moscow, by taking part in the peace plan, tries to push the programs of this plan toward a direction which does not endanger Russia's interests at least.

The NATO foreign ministers too are quite aware of this viewpoint. Hence by accepting some of Russia's demands they oppose those proposals by Moscow which can create problems for the future of the NATO.

TEHRAN TIMES Questions Price Controls

LD0806083094 Tehran IRNA in English 0748 GMT 8 Jun 94

[Text] Tehran, June 8, IRNA—A morning daily here Wednesday editorialized on the new pricing scheme saying that the plan will be successful if it is implemented with the least degree of government interference and if the consumers themselves perform the role of the controllers. The compulsory use of price tags on articles is an effective way of bringing some order in the market and it is being used for this purpose all over the world, TEHRAN TIMES wrote.

The doubtful aspects of the present government scheme begin at the stage where the government apparently intends to assume an active role in determining prices, the daily said adding that this part of the scheme seems to be its least practicable aspect. As long as we have not reached a balanced economy and our production and distribution systems have not evolved into a coherent network, the practice of requiring producers to observe constant prices for any length of time would have very little chance of success, the article stressed.

It further noted that another aspect of the scheme which deserves close examination is the supervisory role assigned to the Commerce Ministry and in particular to the association of guilds and is obviously in conflict with the role assigned to the consumers in the same scheme.

In a guided free market economy such as now prevails in our society, the use of price tags could be useful only in

regulating the market and enforces some sort of uniformity of prices in various part of a single city, the article said. But when the government decides to have an active role in determining prices, then the scheme will meet overt and hidden resistance from producers and distributors, it added. It concluded by saying that for this reason it is doubtful whether direct government role in price determination can produce any beneficial results for the economy.

Pakistan

Text of Minister's 1994-95 Budget Speech

BK1006111394 Islamabad THE NATION in English 10 Jun 94 p 5

[Text of the 1994-95 budget speech by Makhdum Shahabuddin, minister of state for economic affairs and finance, at the National Assembly in Islamabad on 9 June]

[Text] Mr Speaker:

This day brings me great honours as I have the privilege of presenting the Annual Budget 1994-95 before the nation. The people of Pakistan blessed with this beloved motherland.

Sir:

The annual budget represents the aspirations of a nation and a society. It holds the key to the realisation of its dreams for a new future. Budget is like a prism, like a crystal ball which shows to a discerning eye the mystiques of the past and present.

Sir:

I can confidently say that his budget is truly reflective of realities, I can only pray for those who do not accept this truth.

This representatives House which has come into existence after a very transparent, just and fair election, has a special place in the history of democracy to forward and the democracy of the country since it enabled democracy to forward and the democratic process has gained greater credibility in the public. [sentence as published] The complete neutrality of the Armed Forces of Pakistan during the general elections have strengthened the public confidence in their non-political role and support for democracy in addition to their defence responsibilities. The nation by electing a Lady as Head of the government has also proved that we are also in the process of building a modern Islamic social system based on tolerance, justice, moderation, open mindedness and liberalism.

During the current year besides domestic factors our economy has been affected by external factors. Due to International recession, our exports have been somewhat lower. Besides this some lasting changes have taken place. A new International Trade Agency (WTO) [World Trade Organization] will make rules for world trade replacing the international trade order managed by GATT. This new world trade system will include additional components concerning the agricultural commodities, intellectual property rights, services and investments. There is talk of doing away with multifibre agreement. One the other hand new trade Blocks are developing. Amongst these, the latest in NAFTA. This will reduce the access of developing countries to the world Market.

During 1993 there have been extra-ordinary developments within the country which mainly relate to domestic politics. The government which had come into existence after a controversial elections was replaced by a Care Taker Government. This Care Taker Government undertook a number of important reforms for the recovery of deteriorating economy and held elections leading to the transfer of power to the present Government. Election of a Prime Minister nominated by the successful party and election of the President have brought about a new era of political stability which had made it possible for the Government to devote itself whole-heartedly to improve the economic situation.

Mr Speaker:

These political developments did not remain confined to politics but their pernicious influence also affected the economy. Economic indiscretion and irresponsibility of the previous Government was unparalleled. National resources were carelessly wasted and projects like yellow taxes and motor way were implemented which heavily damaged the economy and deeply affected the banking system. Consequently we inherited inflation and recession.

Mr Speaker:

GDP growth rate which during last 40 years maintained an average of 6 per cent had fallen to 2.28 per cent in 1992-93. In other words this was less than the population growth rate. Consequently in real terms the per capita income fell by 0.8 per cent. Agriculture Sector which is the back bone of the national economy and provides direct or indirect employment to 70 per cent of the rural population registered a fall of 5.3 per cent. Virus attack on cotton crop 1992-93 led to a record fall in cotton crop 1992-93 led to a record fall in cotton crop. [sentence as published] The then Government did not give it any attention. Cotton crop 1993-94 was again attacked by virus which caused tremendous loss to the farmers. This affected export and Textile industry faced a serious crisis. Stock market went into a recession. Foreign investment fell. Monetary and fiscal policies were being operated without any coordination. During 1990-93 rate of monetary expansion went beyond 20 per cent per annum, whereas GDP increased by 5.2 per cent per annum. Generation of resources was in serious difficulties while the taxation system was stagnant. Government Receipts as percentage of GDP were far less than the public expenditure. Overall fiscal deficit had risen to 7.9

per cent of GDP during 1992-93. To finance the budgetary deficit, Rs [rupees] 62.58 billion which was 4.7 billion had already been borrowed from the banks to finance the budget in the preceding year. [sentence as published] Foreign exchange reserves had fallen to an alarming level. On 20th October, 1993, they stood at dollars 326.3 million which were not enough for two weeks imports. Balance of payment deficits had increased to dollars 3 billion. Economy had destabilised and major economic indicators, for instance Fiscal deficits, monetary expansion, trade deficit and inflation, were providing evidence of this instability. During 1990-93, inflation rate had gone beyond 10 per cent which had badly affected the purchasing powers of the general public. In the Energy Sector the gap between demand and supply had increased. No meaningful plan was initiated to increase the availability of power and thus we inherited long duration load- shedding schedules. No meaningful progress was made in the Social Sector, literacy remained low and the rural population continued to be denied the basic amenities.

Mr Speaker:

Controlling the worsening economic situation and restoring the economy to growth path constituted a great challenge for us. Our manifesto contained a clear strategy to solve these problems. The corner stone of our manifesto is the well being of the people of Pakistan. We want to introduce a just social order in the country where by exploitation is replaced by a strong and stable system which is naturally beneficial for employee and employer and provides for increased productivity. We are taking steps to project the rights of farmers, women and minorities and by increasing the pace of industrial growth we want to make Pakistan a modern industrial centre of Asia so that poverty is eliminated from the country and every citizen is provides basic necessities of life. For this purpose we want to increase the pace of economic growth so that Pakistan can as quickly as possible enter an era of prosperity. We promise to eliminate economic disparities from the country by an equitable distribution of national income. A new tariff structure is being introduced which is based on justice and which will increase the government income and reduce the budget deficit. Increased allocations will be provided for the growth of social sectors. Further more, to encourage private investment unnecessary controls and regulations are being removed from the economy.

Immediately on assumption of power and seeking guidance from Peoples Party's manifesto, the present Government started implementation of a strategy for recovery of the country's economy which should help in solving all the problems. Instead to seeking cheap popularity, the Government wants the country to move into 21st century honourably through revolutionary, political social and economic reforms. Economic policy of the present Government is based on the following principles:

(a) Macro-economic stability and reduction in inflation.
(b) consistent increase in the GDP.
(c) Development of social sector, human resource development, increase in productivity, and elimination of un-employment.
(d) Growth of energy and physical sectors.
(e) Establishment of free and open economy and defining of a new public and private sector partnership.

(a) Economic Stability: For macro-economic stability, it is absolutely essential that budget deficit should be reduced to a level which should be consistent with the target of low inflation and ability to service debt. Consequently monetary expansion should be in line with the targets for growth rate of GDP and price stability. The third element which is no less in importance relates to international balance of payments. This should be kept at appropriate level which should not adversely affect the desirable level of foreign exchange reserves. In other words we want to establish such a balance for monetary fiscal and foreign trade politics which could help in the growth domestic production, control inflation and provide a balance between the two components of the economy viz. domestic and external.

(b) Increasing growth in GDP: An increase in the gross domestic product is un-avoidably for improving the standard of living. Fundamental objective of our policy is to ensure a minimum 7 per cent per annum growth of GDP in the future. It is possible only if both agriculture and industry grow adequately. Therefore, we are proposing a pricing policy along with monetary structure which should make it possible to improve performance of these sectors and provide for significant increase in productivity.

(c) Development of Social Sectors and Elimination of Unemployment: Compared to other developing countries, our literacy rate is very low. Due to in-adequate health facilities the average age longevity is also low. Pakistan has achieved significant GDP growth rates but in the human resource development indicators it stands at 120th position amongst the countries of world. Unless we make significant improvement in this, we cannot ensure continuous and durable progress for the people. Therefore, an important element of our strategy is to remove economic and social disparities as quickly as possible. Besides our Manifesto the history and character of the People's party demands this of us.

(d) development of Energy and Physical Infrastructure:

11. [number as published] In view of low priority given to these sectors in development plans their present growth rate is far less than the requirement. Growth of agriculture and industrial sectors is dependent on the provision of these basic facilities. A proper pricing policy and proper Fiscal and Monetary investments are necessary for the growth of these sectors.

(e) Establishment of open and free economy and defining of a new public and private partnership:

12. Our government believes in a free and open economy. We want to encourage free market policies.

We are against control and regulations. We emphasise dis-investment and privatisation of public sectors since we originally introduced this policy. Corner stone of our policy is to encourage domestic and foreign investors. We have introduced a new concept of public and private partnership. Under this the private sector in partnership with the Government has to play a more effective role in social sector and establishing labour intensive small industries. It is also our policy that private sector has to devise such economic policies which should provide guidance and encouragement to the private sector. Basically public sector has to provide national defence and ensure law and order.

13. During eight months of the present government much has been achieved.

- By 31st March, 1994 bank borrowing for budget deficit has been contained to only Rs 10.34 billion. During the same period last year the bank borrowing was Rs 61.87 billion.
- Domestic credit expansion was kept at 5.3 per cent as against 19.6 per cent during the previous year.

14. A new policy has been introduced for Agriculture Sector under which support prices for major crops have been adequately increased. Recent increase in the support price of wheat is a part of this policy. To increase the pace of foreign investment and industrial growth an Investment Board under the Prime Minister has been established. National Investment Council, Pakistan Investment Board and Investment Promotion Bureau have been merged into this new Board. A Data Bank will be established under this board which will Provide basic information for investment to the domestic and foreign investors. A new Privatisation Policy has been formulated and its process has been made more transparent and quicker. Thirty one industrial units have been identified for privatisation and some have already been sold.

15. Declining trend in production has been contained. There has been a record production of Rice and Sugarcane. Similarly Sugar and Nitrogenous Fertilizer Industries have achieved record production levels. However, with fall in Cotton production and its negative impact on Textile Industry, and the fall in Wheat production due to drought have affected the growth rate of GDP to some extent. During the current financial year considerable increase has been achieved in the production capacity of some important industries, like Textile, Chemical Fertilizer, cement and Sugar. Nevertheless GDP has grown by 4 per cent during the current year as against 2.3 per cent achieved during the preceding year. Increase in agriculture production in estimated at 2.6 per cent whereas it had recorded a fall of 5.3 per cent during the preceding year. Overall industrial growth has increased by 5.6 per cent which is higher than the preceding year. Trade Deficit in the balance of payments has been reduced by 35.3 per cent up to April, 1994. This was made possible by lower imports as compared to exports.

16. During the period July-December in the current financial year disbursement of industrial credit increased by 17 per cent. Foreign investment up to 30th March, 1994 stood at $417.2 million which is 58.1 per cent higher than $263.9 million for the same period during the preceding year.

17. During the first four months there as tremendous pressure on consumer prices on account of expansionary monetary and fiscal policies of the past, increase in taxes in the Budget 1993-94, increase in Petroleum and Cement and Gas prices and depreciation of the Rupee. Price Index for 20 consumer items increased by 5.5 per cent during July-October. The present Government introduced discipline in monetary and fiscal polices. Import duties were adjusted to keep the domestic supply of essential commodities at an appropriate level. Network of Utility Stores was made more effective and Utility During Stores were established. We expect the prices to stabilise as a result of Fiscal and Monetary stability.

18. Comparatively low growth in our social sectors has been caused by low literacy rate and falling educational standards. Our Government has decided to increase the allocation for education from 2.4 per cent of GDP to 3 per cent of GDP within the next ten years. In addition an Advisory Council has been established to introduce reforms in the Education Sector. Steps are in hand to provide incentives to the private sector in the Education Sector. A fifteen months' training programme for 10,000 un-trained and un-employed female teachers has been started from February, 1994. This will cost Rs 25 million.

19. An integrated and large Social Action Programme [SAP] was implemented in 1992-93. We have expanded this programme. Under this, expansion will be undertaken of all facilities in the rural areas, for female education, primary education, basic health, nutrition levels, population welfare, clean drinking water supply and drainage.

Under The Social Action Programme

- Training of 10,000 Primary Teachers will be organised.
- 33000 Female Health workers will be trained to that birth and infant mortality rates can be reduced.
- Facilities of technical training of 50,000 persons will be provided.
- 600,000 persons have been provided employment during 1993-94.

20. For the development of general health services 102 Basic Health Units [BHU's] and 21 Rural Health Centres [RHC's] were established during the current financial year while 2206 beds were added in the Hospitals. In the Health Sector, Additional 3426 Doctors, beds were added in the Hospital. [sentence as published] In the Health Sector, additional 3426 Doctors, 250 Dental Doctors, 1890 Nurses, 6800 TBAs [expansion unknown] and 4900 Paramedics were trained.

21. We are giving special attention to the welfare of Women. Our last government established the First Women Bank. Now we have started a programme for separate police stations for Women. Women have been appointed judges during the current year. Ministry of Women Development have provided Rs 48 million to First Women Bank so that women can be provided loans for income generating projects at 10 per cent mark-up.

22. A new policy at a cost of Rs 700 billion has been announced for increased availability of energy. Besides the public sector, private sector particularly Overseas Pakistanis will be asked to assist in this effort. The present Government have started many major projects. Most important project amongst them is Ghazi Brotha Hydel Project. This project has a production capacity of 1425 MW [megawatts] and will be completed by the year 2000. This project has already been approved. The second major project is the Hub Power Project. This project is in the Thermal Power sector and the entire investment is being provided by the private sector. This project will be completed in 1996 at a cost of $1820 million. Its production capacity is 1292 MW. Besides this a new policy package for the private sector participation in the Electric Power Sector was announced in March, 1994. Import elements of this policy package include product purchase price at internationally competitive rates, soft terms for credit in the local currency and simplification of procedures. It has also been decided that in future the Government will only invest in Hydel Power Sector and Thermal Power Sector will be fully reserved for private investment. In this connection domestic and foreign investors including Overseas Pakistanis investors will be provided same incentives.

23. We have provided full legal and operational autonomy to the State Bank of Pakistan. Credit system and mark up structure is being reformed to encourage savings. New financial institutions for special purpose like Kisan Banking Windows in public sector and Kisan Bank Scheme in private sector, are being established. I am happy to announce that Kisan Bank Scheme will be introduced from 1st July, 1994 and Kisan Banking Windows will be open for business in the entire country. Lending procedure will be appropriately devised to enable us to move forward to meet the requirements of small farmers. This will lead to growth in the agriculture sector. Separate allocation will be made for Kisan Banking Windows.

24. Reform of taxation system is absolutely essential. Without this objective of economic stability cannot be achieved. For this purpose measures will be taken which will bring about appropriate elasticity in the taxes. Taxes will be reduced on production and investment and transferred to consumption. I will be elaborating this later on.

25. Capital market has not fully developed in our country. We are including reforms to improve its performance. Foreign nationals and overseas Pakistanis have already been permitted to invest on a repatriable basis in corporate debt instruments. As a further step, trust money and employers provident funds are now being allowed to be invested in all listed securities as well as bonds, redeemable capital and instruments issued by the Water and Power Development Authority [WAPDA]. The Companies Ordinance and the Trust Act are being amended accordingly for this purpose through the Finance Bill. Moreover, Foreign Exchange Bonds will be floated in the International Market and our Stock Exchanges will be linked with major Stock Exchanges of the world.

26. We have devised an integrated and clear strategy to enable us to begin the new year with fresh determination and hopes. While increasing the pace of growth we will also rectify our weakness and mistakes which have destabilised our economy. Important requirements of our strategy are as follows:

(i) To re-invigorate the pace of economic growth and increase the rate of GDP growth from 4 per cent to 6.9 per cent. Major contribution for this growth will be provided by Agriculture and Industries Sector with a growth rates of 8 per cent and 7 per cent respectively for which necessary policies are being formulated.

(ii) The second element of our strategy is the establishment of Fiscal and Monetary stability. We are reducing overall fiscal deficit to less than 6 per cent in 1993-94 as compared to 7.9 per cent in 1992-93. This will be further reduced during the next year. I will be giving the details later on. Monetary expansion which had reached 18 per cent in 1992-93 has been reduced to 14.1 per cent in 1993-94 and will be further reduced to 11.8 per cent next year. This will not only have a positive impact on inflation but also bring about fiscal stability. We will maintain the current year's rising trend in Foreign Exchange Reserves and further strengthen it by a 19 per cent increase in Exports.

(iii) Rate of growth of infrastructure has been less than increasing demand. Consequently we are facing load-shedding and other problems. A fast increase in energy, water, communications and other infrastructure is important component of our strategy. Higher allocations have been made for these sectors in the PSDP [Public Sector Development Program] for the next year. Private sector is also being provided incentives and facilities so that they can invest in these sectors.

(iv) Social Sectors have suffered from lack of attention and increase in population has made the matters worse. In this connection many actions have been taken which will be further strengthened during the next year.

27. In addition, on the direction of the Prime Minister, a programme to provide 33000 Village Health Workers has been started who will help in providing better health services to women and children in rural areas. These Female workers come from the areas where the Basic Health Units are located.

Mr Speaker:

28. The size of budgeted PSDP for the next financial year has been fixed at Rs 90 billion which is 20 per cent higher than last year. Our Government had wished to increase it further but due to resource constraints and requirement of fiscal discipline it was not possible. Our effort is that this development programme may be further strengthened for which public sector agencies like WAPDA, PAO [expansion unknown], PTC [Pakistan Television Corporation], and OGRC [expansion unknown] may further invest with their own resources to carry our development activities in their respective field.

Important feature of the PSDP are as follows:

(i) Allocations for educational training has been increased by 45.2 per cent.
(ii) Funds for health sector has been increased by 191.3 per cent.
(iii) Rs 10 billion have been allocated to the Provinces for SAP which is an increase of Rs 1.2 billion over the last year. Besides this, Federal agencies are being provided Rs 2 billion of this programme.
(iv) Development budget for science and technology has been increased by 97.9 per cent.
(v) 64.5 per cent increase has been provided to the allocations for Women's Development.
(vi) Adequate allocations have been made to different development schemes including Chashma Nuclear Project, Water Resource Projects, Anti-Waterlogging and Salinity Projects, Sainkdak Copper Project and Water Supply Schemes.
(vii) Rs 3 billion have been provided for Peoples Programme.
(viii) Allocation for Tameer-e-Sindh Programme have been raised from Rs 1.5 billion to Rs 2.5 billion.
(ix) Rs 3.6 billion have been provided for LBOD [expansion unknown] and Rs 0.5 billion for RBOD [expansion unknown].

29. Irrigation water supply which was 127 MAF [expansion unknown] in 1993-94 will be increased to 130 MAF in 1994-95. Out of this 81 MAF in be provided from be On-going Irrigation Schemes including Canal Rehabilitation Scheme and the remaining 49 MAF will be provided by new tube wells from the ground water resource by SCARP [Salinity Control and Reclamation Project] and private sector.

- Approximately one hundred thousand hectare affected land will be saved from water logging and salinity by installing 804 SCARP tube wells and more than 6000 private sector tube wells. Left and right bank outfall Drains, Punjnad, Abbasia, Ford Wah Sadiqua, Swabi SCARP and many other projects are included in this programme.
- First two phases of Chashma Canal Bank Project have been completed and the third phase will be expedited.
- Pat Feeder Canal Project which is under implementation satisfactorily has been provided large allocation.
- A number of Irrigation System Rehabilitation Schemes will be completed in the next year. This includes renovation of 3435 water channels, land levelling of 19486 hectare and establishment of Demonstration Centres. The expenditure on these schemes is estimated at Rs 1068.5 million.

30. In the Power Sector 6097 villages will be provided power during the next financial year. 570,000 new electric connections will be made available. Ghazi Brotha Project will also be started next year. It is expected the crude oil production will be 56000 barrel per day whereas natural gas production will rise to 1954 million cft [expansion unknown] per day. Forty five (45) new oil and gas wells will be dug in the public and private sectors and gas supply will be extended to additional 41 towns.

31. Work for modernization of Railways will be continued. Eighteen (18) new Engines will be purchased while 46 Diesel Electric Engines will be recommissioned. Better facilities will be provided for passengers.

32. In the Communications Sector, two hundred thousand telephone lines will be laid. The old Gateway Exchange at Karachi will be replaced with a new exchange and Islamabad will be provided with another Gateway Exchange. Eighty five thousands (85000) old EMS [expansion unknown] lines will be changed into digital exchanges. Stations will be established at 85 different places for consumers and 36 new cities and towns will be linked with NWD [expansion unknown] facilities.

33. To overcome the water scarcity in Islamabad, it has been decided to increase to pace of work on Khanpur Dam to Islamabad Water Supply Pipelines by providing Government resources. Water supply to Islamabad from Simly Dam will also be continued. Moreover, a project for installing new tube wells has also been approved.

34. Provision of basic health services will be continued in the Health Sector particularly disease prevention and control measures and nutritional scheme will be continued in the rural areas. Twenty four (24) new Basic Health Units and 6 new Rural Health Centres will be established while 557 BHUs and 81 RHCs will be upgraded. Ninety one (91) new Urban Rural Centres will be established. In addition 3460 Doctors, 250 Dentists, 3600 Nurses, 9700 paramedics, 33000 Village Health Workers, 3740 TBAs will be employed by the Health Department after completing training.

35. 3.92 million infant children cover will be provided under the EPI [expansion unknown] during the next financial year. The Prime Minister in this respect has inaugurated a new campaign on 27th April, 94.

36. Special allocations have been made for population control measures. Besides this a Population Day will be organised on 11th July, 1994 to highlight the different aspects of the problems and people may be encouraged for Population Welfare.

Socio-Economic Package for Karachi

37. Karachi is the nerve centre of industrial and commercial activities in the country and it makes as sizeable contribution to the overall economic growth. The development of civic amenities has not received proper attention in the past. In order to improve the situation, the Government has announced a comprehensive package for the socio-economic improvement of the city. This package will cost Rupees 121 billion and it will primarily address problems on account of the shortage of electrical power, water and mass transit. In the energy sector, the power availability in Karahci would be enhanced from 1700 MW to 4000 MW at a total Cost of Rs 88 billion. In addition, the rehabilitation of KESC's [Karachi Electric Supply Corporation] transmission and distribution system will also be undertaken at a cost of Rs 6.2 billion. Further, a desalination plant will be set up which would provide an additional 10 million gallon of potable water per day at a projected cost of US $1.2 billion with foreign funding. For better transportation, the project for providing mass transit system for Karachi would be undertaken on priority basis.

Eighth Five Year Plan

Mr Speaker:

38. From next year, macro-economic targets at the major elements of our integrated medium term plan. Our Government has recently approved the Eighth Five Year Plan in the light of our priorities and manifesto. Total outlay of this plan in 1992-93 prices is Rs 1701 billion which is 48 per cent higher than 7th Five Year Plan. Rs 752 billion have been provided for the public sector and Rs 949 billion have been kept for private sector. Under the plan, target for GDP growth is 7 per cent consisting of 4.9 per cent for agriculture, 9.9 per cent industry and 6.7 per cent for services. The Plan gives priority to social sectors, physical infrastructure and development of energy and water resources. Attainment of macro-economic stability has been emphasised. Accordingly, fiscal deficit will be reduced from 7.9 per cent of GDP to 4 per cent of GDP. Current account deficit in the balance of payment will be reduced from 7 per cent of GDP to 2.4 per cent of GDP. Furthermore the Plan aims at limiting the long-term foreign debt to 36 per cent of the GDP and monetary expansion has been kept at below nominal growth rate in current prices of GDP so that inflation can be reduced from 10.6 per cent to 6 per cent. National savings will be increased from 15.8 per cent to 19.9 per cent of national income. Under the Plan 6.2 million new employment opportunities will be created besides that domestic debt will be reduced. As stated earlier legislation will be undertaken to limit the budgetary deficit.

Special programmes for Social Welfare

39. Rs 50 million were provided for the welfare of minorities, reconstruction and development of their religious places and the needy under the Minorities Affairs Division. Another Rs 50 million are provided in the next year. Moreover, the Minority Members of the Assembly were provided Rs 5 million for educational scholarships for the students of minority community. Another Rs 5 million have been provided for this purpose during the next financial year. 4886 widows benefited from the loan remission policy for HBFC [House Building Finance Corporation] loans. In the new budget Rs 20 million under this policy have been kept for HBFC.

Zakat and Ushr

40. The Government has taken many steps to improve the working of Zakat and Ushr [Islamic Tithe and Agricultural Tax System] system so that their operations are transparent and accountability of administration for indiscipline can be made certain. During the current financial year approximately 1.1 million widows, orphans and handicapped persons were provided Rs 1440 million. In addition Rs 960 million were provided for scholarships, medical treatment, technical and religious education through schools, hospitals, religious maddrassas [schools] and social welfare organisations. Mustehikeen [those eligible to receive Zakat and Ushr assistance] of Northern Areas are also being provided assistance. A target of Rs 2.5 billion has been kept for assistance from the Central Zakat Fund for the next financial year. Improved collection system under Ushr will provide additional resources. The Government has provided Rs 1 billion during the next financial year for new agricultural loans and interest free agricultural loans for Haris of Kacha lands in Sindh. These loans will be provided through Agricultural Development Bank, Federal Bank for Cooperatives and Commercial Banks.

41. The former Government had kept no provision for Baitul Mal [public welfare fund] in the Budget. We have provided Rs 1.02 billion in the next financial year for Baitul Mal Fund for assistance to the poor and needy. This is a reflection of the Prime Minister's deep concern for the welfare of the needy persons of the society.

Debt Burden

42. The Peoples Government wishes to take the nation into confidence about our alarming debt burden. Past Government's particularly that of Nawaz League did not meet their expenditure by raising adequate revenues. They did not keep a balance between income and expenditure.

43. They borrowed more in three years that all governments from Quaid-e-Azam to the last Peoples Government. They chose to borrow, and borrow heavily, and borrow expensively. This unforgivable mismanagement sin increased our debt to such a high level that Government's expenditure on payment of interest on this debt is threatening the whole fiscal system. This problem can be better viewed in a historical perspective.

44. When the first PPP [Pakistan People's Party] Government of Prime Minister Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto took over

debt servicing was 3 per cent of GDP. The PPP Government brought it down by 1976-77 to 2.7 per cent of the GDP. Then came the Zia years. By the time the second PPP Government was sworn, in debt servicing had risen to 6 per cent of the GDP. Then came Nawaz League. By 1993-94 the estimate was 8.15 per cent GDP. This alarming growth of debt cannot continue. If it does, the government will have to tax people heavily every year only to meet its obligations towards debt servicing. The choice before us is either adhocism or long-term solution. We can borrow heavily to pay our debts and thus compound the problem for the future. Or we can raise enough revenues to meet expenditure. We are thinking of the future. The future of our children. Of our coming generations. Therefore, we have chosen the second course, because we do not believe in cheap popularity. We believe in lasting recognition and redemption in the eyes of those who voted us in—the poor and oppressed, the middle classes and working classes whose standard of living has continued to deteriorate. Today, we adopt policies for long-term stability of the economy so that Pakistan grows strong.

Mr Speaker Sir:

45. I will now take up the Budget Estimates. Revenue receipts were initially estimated at Rs 217 billion in the Budget Estimates for the current financial year. The Revised Estimates stand at Rs 211 billion. This reduction is due to 12 per cent fall in the imports. The initial estimates for current expenditure were Rs 258 billion. The Revised Estimates now stand at Rs 272 billion. The increase is due to ad-hoc Relief for Government servants and debt servicing.

46. Net capital receipts were estimated at Rs 40 billion. This estimate is being maintained.

47. Overall fiscal deficit was estimated at Rs 85 billion which was to be financed by Rs 23 billion from external resources, Rs 49 billion from non-bank borrowing and Rs 13 billion from bank borrowing. According to revised estimates overall fiscal deficit will be Rs 91 billion while bank borrowing will be limited to Rs 20 billion.

48. National Economic Council has fixed 4 per cent as the target for overall fiscal deficit. The limit for bank borrowing for the budget had been fixed at Rs 15 billion. In view of these targets receipt and expenditure estimates for the next financial year are proposed as follows:

(i) Revenue Receipts	Rs 238 Billion
(ii) Current Expenditure	Rs 295 Billion
(iii) Public Sector Development Program	Rs 90 Billion
(iv) Self-Generation	Rs 10 Billion
(v) Overall Fiscal Deficit (at 4 per cent of GDP)	Rs 72 Billion
(vi) Net External Resources	Rs 31 Billion
(vii) Non-Bank Borrowing	Rs 26 Billion
(viii) Bank Borrowing	Rs 15 Billion
(ix) Resource Gap	Rs 30 Billion

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